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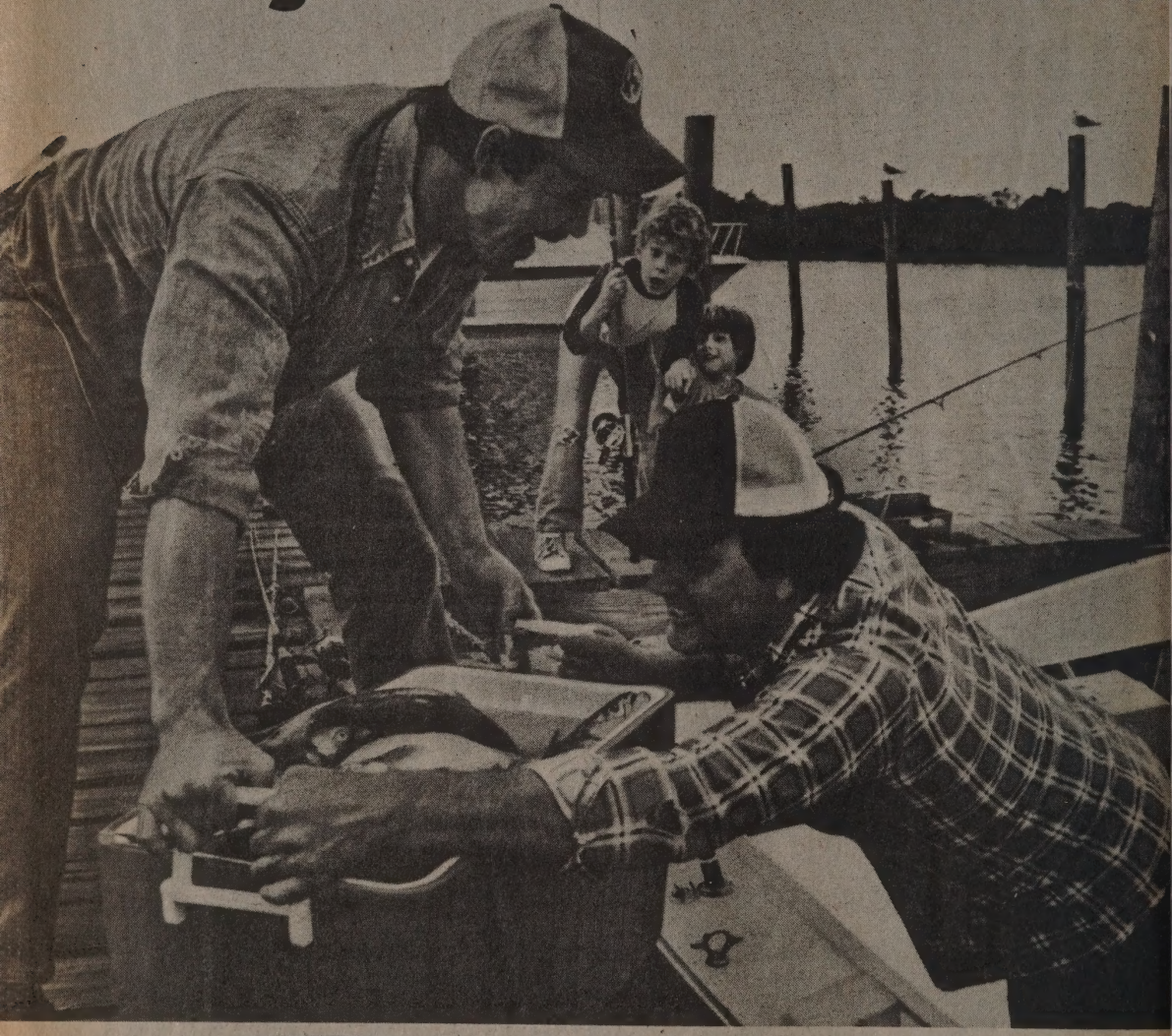

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

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Volume 16, Number 37 **September 17th, 1981**

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Big game anglers play a game of patience between tuna strikes at the Mud Hole. See Al Ristori's article on page 22. Cover by Tim Coleman.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **SHORT CUT TO A TROPHY STRIPER**

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EDITORIAL

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTARY

EDITOR'S COMMENT: The following is the text of a document filed with Hon. Maurice D. Hinchey, in response to a number of questions addressed at public hearings on August 24 and 25, 1981. Our position on these matters has not been arrived at casually. A great deal of thought and struggle has been involved. We have been trying for eight years to help and inform the DEC. However, their recent positions on Long Island Sound bunker harvesting, the dragging in Long Island Sound, the striped bass question, the gill net issue, and their persistent marriage to commercial fishing interests at the expense of the larger and more important recreational industry forces us to take these positions. Some of our readers may balk at our statements about a recreational fishing license and if that promotes your ire, then so be it. We remain convinced that a proper and meaningful license will benefit recreational fishing and give all of us the data we need to promote and protect our recreational fishing rights. We are indeed aware that some of you disagree, but we have trouble arguing with the success of the National Rifle Association. Through formal association comes political power. We are not anti-commercial fishing either; but we say again it is a question of where they harvest, when they harvest, and how much they harvest. We believe redefined commercial fishing policy will mean better economics for the full-time commercial fisherman. We feel it has been too long that we have not worked out ways of fishing compatibly. The time is overdue, before both industries become extinct; to say nothing of the fish.

Although many more questions were listed on the agenda for the public hearings, we would like to restrict our comments to the field of three questions. These are: 1) Does the DEC have the capability to adequately manage and protect marine fisheries resources? 2) Should a commercial fishing license be established? 3) Should a marine fisheries advisory committee be established?

DOES THE DEC HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO ADEQUATELY MANAGE AND PROTECT MARINE FISHERIES RESOURCES? Perhaps it is more efficient to first offer a simple response and then to clarify our position. The simple response is that clearly the DEC does not have the capability to adequately manage and protect our marine fisheries resources! The existing DEC is short on man-power, talent, and funds to handle the proposed job. That should not be misinterpreted, however, to mean we believe that the DEC could do the job if their budget were substantially increased. It is this point that we would like the opportunity to clarify. Since 1970, when the present DEC structure was established, the DEC has received most of its extra-state funding from commercial sources. Thus, from the day of its creation to the present the DEC has been married to the commercial side of New York State's marine fisheries resources activities. This is significant in our opinion, because for eleven years the Department has been conditioned to respond to both commercial needs and interests. Therefore, over the years we feel the DEC has developed policy, advised the Legislature and the Governor on proposed legislation, and encouraged practices and regulations that are not in the best interest of the fisheries resources of this state or the people of this state.

In any fisheries management effort the prime concerns should be the habitat and the resource. To this end, commercial and recreational activities must come second or those activities might cease to exist for lack of the resource. We believe that the DEC has not made these the prime objectives. Instead we have been repeatedly told that it is the job of the DEC to give all the citizens of the state equal access to the resources.

Indeed access to our resources is a noble objective, but lacks any meaning or significance if the resource is not first protected and the habitat preserved. We read with interest recently a small note in the East Hampton Star in which baymen were complaining that it was too difficult to harvest clams in Northwest Harbor because of all the eel grass and other sea plants which they were apparently tearing up in their clamming activities. Such eel grass estuaries are vital links between in-shore organic productivity and ocean productivity of finfish and shellfish. The eel grass beds are important nursery and spawning grounds for a variety of marine finfish and shellfish and yet the DEC has repeatedly failed to step into such situations and prohibit continued harvesting. The DEC argues that the baymen must make a living and that they must harvest where the resource is, and that the people of the state have a right to the opportunity to purchase the resource. The logic

is clear that if the habitat is destroyed so is the resource and allowing harvesting under such conditions encourages habitat destruction and resource decimation. If it is the job of the DEC to manage and protect marine resources, then they must do so even when that means the fishermen will not agree with the regulations and restrictions. Let's face it, if all the people of the state could be counted upon to obey the laws of the state, then we would need no DEC, no police force, and ultimately, no laws. If the primary responsibility of the DEC is to protect and manage, then they must do so. The habitat and the resources must come before all considerations.

Now, it has been scientifically agreed that hook and line fishermen cannot decimate a stock of fish through the use of hook and line methods because to be successful using this approach a fisherman needs a large body of fish. Thus, long before a stock of fish even begins to approach significantly reduced population levels, the hook and line fisherman has re-directed his efforts to other species finding fishing for the original target species no longer worthwhile. This principle is so generally accepted today that the regional fisheries management councils have used it repeatedly in their considerations.

Therefore, one is drawn to the inexorable conclusion that it is commercial harvesting that requires the greatest scrutiny. That is not to say that recreational fishing does not need regulation. Indeed, recreational harvesting does require management, but of a significantly different nature than that needed to control commercial harvests. We believe that two of the best methods of managing recreational angling effects on stocks would be to officially recognize that hook and line fishermen who sell their catch are in truth commercial fishermen and as such should be required to pay for the privilege of harvesting the resource to sell to the rest of the citizens of this state. We believe that all commercial harvestors should pay a handsome price for that privilege. A permit to sell, of this nature, would discourage those who occasionally encounter great success from selling their catch; would therefore reduce the size of the hook and line harvest; would allow for the gathering of more meaningful data on recreational and commercial harvests, and allow for a more appropriate regulation of true recreational fishermen who fish only for fun and whose harvests are generally limited to the amount of fish that their families can use.

The second most important way to regulate recreaticnal angling is via size limits where such size limits regulations seem appropriate to a larger management effort for the species. Size limit regulations have been imposed for striped bass, fluke (summer flounder), and weakfish. There have been few complaints from the recreational industry. Yet, haul seiners have left mounds of under-sized striped bass, weaks, and blues on our beaches to rot and die, draggers kill countless numbers of fish that are under-sized in large hauls of fish that crush and kill many of them, and other fish rot on poorly tended gill nets. The commercial waste of our marine resources is astounding. Again, the DEC has taken no action. The DEC repeatedly claims that there are plenty of fish for everyone and yet the data reveals that the coastal stock of striped bass is in very bad shape, weakfish stocks have declined steadily (in spite of an increase in the commercial catch in some years owing to increased fishing pressure and improved technology. Unfortunately stock assessments are based mostly on the size of commercial catches), scallops have been declining steadily, clams in the Great South Bay have been so over-harvested that a major study is now under way to find out why this has happened and how the trend can be reversed; it has been predicted that by 1985 lobster fishing in New York waters may be on the edge of being unprofitable, and even the winter flounder does not appear to be as available as they were less than a decade ago. The DEC attributes all of this to cycles. We admit that marine fish and shellfish are cyclical, but we have a great deal of trouble believing in the idea that so many resources have simultaneously declined. We must face the reality that the passage of the Fisheries Management Act of 1977 has encouraged the expansion of our domestic fisheries while restricting foreign harvests. In fact, it has been the official policy of the U.S. Department of Commerce to promote the expansion of our domestic commercial fisheries and we are now faced with pending legislation in New York State (the Fisheries Policy Act) that would begin an official promotion of commercial fishing in New York State.

Unfortunately, contrary to what most people expected in 1977, a good portion of the expansion has taken place on the inshore grounds instead of offshore because of rising fuel costs and the easy seasonal access to desirable species on the inshore grounds and in the estuary. In the last four years the increase in commercial fishing pressure on the inshore grounds has increased markedly and a good portion of these new commercial fishermen are part-time harvestors seeking to take advantage of rising prices for fish. A stiff commercial license would obviously deter such fly-by-night harvesters. The part-time commercial fisherman harms the resource, the recreational industry, and the commercial industry. Once again we found the DEC unresponsive. The DEC has talked in terms of commercial fees of perhaps $50 to $200. We suggest that the DEC join the real world. Why, a single forty pound striped bass will pay for most, if not all of, the price of such a permit. Indeed, a small and insignificant commercial fee cannot be an effective

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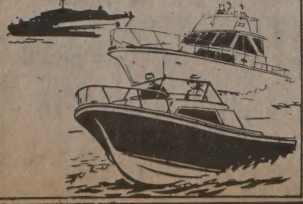

management tool but becomes just another tax. We believe that recreational and commercial interests should oppose a commercial tax because such a tax will serve no one. It is in the best interest of the people of this state that large and significant commercial selling license fees be established (perhaps $500 to $10,000, depending upon the method of harvest and the size of the catch). These large fees are tax write-offs for the commercial fishermen and because these fees would severely restrict the casual harvester, the prices of some species would not decline as much during periods of abundance and, therefore, the overall income of the legitimate commercial harvester would probably increase and become more stable. Therefore, this is our position on the second question. We feel that a commercial fishing license is very necessary and that the cost of these licenses needs to be very large in order to have any management potential and help protect the continued vitality of both commercial and recreational angling.

We recognize that such proposals are viewed by some as revolutionary and by a few as even un-American. We know this to be so because we have received the abusive phone calls and letters. We find it to be incredible that the very people who hint at your un-American beliefs would be so quick to cut off your rights of free speech and freedom of the press. New ideas are often hard to accept, yet we must do so to help society to keep pace with the ever-changing world. The handwriting is clearly on the wall for all to see. According to John E. Bardach writing in the March issue of Bioscience, overfishing near shore is the rule rather than the exception in most developing nations. According to B.J. Rothschild writing in that same journal, harvests are rapidly approaching the productivity capabilities of the ocean. Again in that same issue, Colin Clark writes: "But fishing capabilities continue to expand—even though such expansion is clearly unnecessary—with the result that the fishing season must be progressively shortened to prevent overfishing (referring to the Peruvian fishery). Still other respected marine science authorities have suggested that for inshore commercial activities to survive there must be a transition from marine harvesting to marine farming. Indeed, mariculture is the future for the inshore commercial fishermen. Several years ago we sat on a DEC committee to discuss underwater leasing legislation. In addition to commercial fishermen, the existing mariculture industry was represented by Butler Flowers, the DEC placed three of its staff on the committee, there were several environmentalists present, and there was myself (the lone representative of the recreational fishing industry which could be significantly impacted by a change in mariculture status. I suspect that if I were not a marine biologist I, too, would not have been invited). The committee made no progress because instantly the commercial harvesters resisted and objected. Because of this heavy pressure the DEC folded its tent and until recently nothing more was heard about underwater leasing. In fact, we believe that were it not for the surge in national and international interest in mariculture, if it were not true that some forward-thinking and enterprising people have forged ahead in developing mariculture technologies, that the DEC would not be willing to address the issue now. We believe this is another indication that the DEC is inept at management and protection and lacks the leadership qualities to manage and protect our resources. This comment is offered mainly in response to the question of the efficacy of the DEC, but since few related matters can be totally separated it becomes a comment on another question listed on your agenda: the overall question of mariculture.

SHOULD A MARINE FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE BE ESTABLISHED? We believe the answer to this question is obvious. We are desperately in need of a fisheries advisory committee to watch-dog government departments and agencies and to provide more well-rounded advice to legislators on pending fisheries issues. No further comment is required since the need is so clear.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY! It is being increasingly recognized that restrictions on inshore commercial harvesting is needed to protect habitats and resources. Legislation passed in Florida during the winter of 1980-81 reveals this trend most clearly and marine biologists and economists also suggest the importance of this trend. The DEC is unable and unwilling to promote such an approach in New York State. Second, mariculture is the wave of the future and again, the DEC has been ineffectual in helping New York State to gain a position of leadership in this area. Third, it is now recognized that the recreational fishing industry (marine) is far larger (in numbers of people and in overall monies spent in the economy) than the commercial industry in most states (Delaware is the only exception on the East Coast). The data is there and yet the DEC has been unwilling to share this information with legislators and officials. In New York State, for example, there are about 2.3 million marine recreational fishermen and the economic value to New York State is about **100 times** the overall economic value of the commercial industry in this state. Yet, we see the New York State Legislature currently contemplating a Fisheries Policy Act which would promote commercial fishing at the expense of recreational fishing. If the DEC had done its job the Legislature would have been properly informed and such a bill never promoted.

Fourth. Policies are needed to separate the recreational and commercial

(Continued on page 28.)

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Michael J. Cuddy, Westway Project Director, explained that the Department of Transportation has begun to tear down the remaining sections of the old West Side Highway, an elevated structure in lower Manhattan. It will be replaced by Westway, a 4.2 mile, six-lane highway that will be built in a tunnel through landfill along the Hudson River, from the Battery to 42nd Street.

According to Mr. Cuddy, DOT has directed the construction firms doing the work to chop the concrete pavement, weighing more than 30,000 tons, into blocks approximately 12 ft. long by 4 to 7 ft. wide. They will then be transported to the site where the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is developing the Rockaway artificial reef.

Westway's demolition effort will more than double the area of bottom that now contains reef material within the designated Rockaway Reef—an area 2 miles wide by 1 mile long. The material will be discharged on the northern half of the site.

The concrete pieces will be dropped in a grid system with at least 100 ft. between dumps. A minimum water depth of 23 ft. above the dumped material will be maintained. As they fall to the bottom, the large pieces of concrete will form crevices for fish to congregate. It will take approximately 18 months to complete the work.

POWER SQUADRON TO CONDUCT FREE BOATING COURSE

Commander Stuart A. Horn of Huntington's Neptune Power Squadron, a unit of the U.S. Power Squadrons, has announced the Fall Boating Course schedule. Registration for the free course is at 8PM, Tuesday, September 22, at Northport High School. Elwood Road, Northport; and at 8PM, Wednesday September 23, at Walt Whitman High School, West Hills Road, Huntington Station. Classes will begin on the same night as registration. There will be a nominal fee of $10 for course material. Late registration will also be accepted before classes the following week. The same course will be offered at both schools. The Neptune Squadron has offered these 10-week

courses to boating enthusiasts for over 40 years. Additional information can be obtained by calling 427-4622 or 421-0774.

During the approximately two hour class sessions students will receive instruction in all the major categories of safe boat handling. The last session of the course is reserved for a final examination and those who pass it receive a certificate of completion.

The students will have homework which should take from 30 mins. to an hour and the arithmetic needed for piloting navigation calculations is no more complicated than making change or totaling a shopping list.

Students between 10-15 years of age may also register for a special "Young Boaters" course to be held at each school on the same nights as the Basic Boating Course.

STRIPED BASS HARVEST DOWN IN 1979

A recent "Emergency Striped Bass Study Informational Bulletin" (No. 81-82, June 24, 1981) indicates that the 1979 harvest by commercial and recreational fishermen was far below historical averages.

The purpose of the Emergency Striped Bass Bulletin series is to inform those interested in striped bass what the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) are doing with regard to the implementation of the Emergency Striped Bass Research Study (commonly referred to as the Chafee Amendment), as authorized by the amended Anadromous Fish Conservation Act, P.L.96-118.

Commercial landings statistics collected by the National Marine Fisheries Service indicate that the landings of striped bass in northeastern states in 1979 was substantially less than landings for previous years. Only two states, New York and Massachusetts, reported landings that were comparable to the 1929-1976 average. Maryland reported the highest pounds landed for any northeastern state in 1979, followed by North Carolina, New York, Virginia and Massachusetts. Rhode Island, New Jersey, and Delaware each reported landings of approximately 50,000 pounds.

In 1979, the National Marine Fisheries Service sponsored a survey of marine recreational fishing in the United States. The survey indicated that over one million striped bass were landed by marine fishermen along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts (principally from the Middle Atlantic Region. New York to Virginia, 80% of the total landings) and North Atlantic Region (Maine to Connecticut, 16%). Maryland alone accounted for 55%, by number, of the striped bass landed, followed by New York, 23%, Connecticut, 6%, Massachusetts, 5% Rhode Island, 4%, and North Carolina, 3%. Since 1979 was the first year of a new method for conducting the recreational fishery survey, the numbers obtained are not directly comparable to earlier survey results.

MERRICK ROD & GUN CLUB

On Sunday, August 30, the Merrick Rod & Gun Club held a fluke trip on individual boats. Largest fluke caught by Paul Kimbley, Club's president, weighed in at 2 lbs. 8 oz. Close behind were fluke caught by Ed Curtis and Kevin Meehan. Surprise catch of the day was a whopping 8 lb. 12 oz. weakfish caught by Kevin Meehan. It was a good day for all participants.

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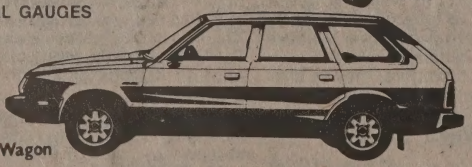

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Buggy Groups Support Watt

by Al Ristori

A couple of recent columns have carried pieces about the National Wildlife Federation's campaign to have President Reagan dismiss Secretary of the Interior James Watt. Many other conservation groups are also after Watt's hide, but it was unusual that the relatively conservative NWF got involved in this cause. Since those columns have appeared, I've been informed that there is very definitely another side to the story. The beach buggy associations not only approve of Watt—they think he's the greatest thing to come down the pike in recent years!

Up to this time beach buggy fishermen have been fighting a losing battle to maintain their rights on National Seashore lands. Recent Interior Secretaries have been listening to the extreme preservationists and gradually pushing off the beach buggy association members who have always treated the beach with respect, and given of their time and money to help stabilize dunes and ensure that the general public didn't foul up these delicate areas. As access became ever more restricted, it appeared that this time-honored tradition would fade out completely within a few years. However, according to prominent New Jersey beach buggy advocate Bob Lick, Watt has turned this all around.

Not only is there no threat of more restrictions, but Watt has even extended an open hand to the beach buggy associations. Instead of fighting for their lives in Washington, they're now being asked for their opinions on issues involving the National Seashore. In response to the treatment they've received, the beach buggy leaders are organizing support for Watt at this critical juncture. Since many are NWF members, they're also organizing mini-revolts among the state chapters to the action of the national organization.

License Fee Increases Discouraging Anglers

As much as they may be justified in many cases, it appears quite clear that big increases in fishing license fees result in less participation in the sport. According to figures released by the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior, and reported in the Sport Fishing Institute Bulletin, there is a correlation between higher license fees and a drop in the number of license holders. In twenty-four states which increased license fees more than 40% between 1975 and 1980, the number of paid license holders dropped by an average of 2.1%. On the other hand, the twenty-six states that increased license fees by less than 40% enjoyed an average increase in paid license holders of 8.9%!

The number of paid license holders in fiscal year 1980 was 27,994,917, up a mere 0.17% from the previous fiscal year. Twenty states showed a decline (over 5% in six states) and thirty registered an increase (over 5% in 12 states). A paid license holder is one individual regardless of the number of licenses he may purchase. For instance, the total number of licenses, tags, permits, and stamps sold in fiscal year 1980 was 35,182,908. It should also be noted that the number of paid license holders doesn't begin to reflect the actual number of sport fishermen in the country. While licensing regulations relating to saltwater aren't very clear in some states, it appears that only in California and Texas are all saltwater fishermen licensed. All states exempt children from licensing, and many also exclude senior citizens, the handicapped, and the military. A "ball park" figure of 60,000,000 fishermen and fisherwomen throughout the country is probably quite realistic.

License sales in area states are led by New York with 901,936 (worth $5,710,284), followed by Connecticut 198,984 ($766,424), New Jersey with 182,079 ($1,976,803), and Delaware at 15,108 ($81,649.65). New Jersey's revenue is much greater than Connecticut's because it requires a trout stamp in order to fish for that species. Though New York is second only to California in population, it ranks only ninth in paid fishing license holders. California (2,186,178) and Texas (1,745,119), both of which license saltwater anglers, lead the way—but Wisconsin (1,515,046) isn't far behind. The latter state leads all others in non-resident licenses with 404,680. Other states with over a million paid license holders are Minnesota, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. The State of Washington is also slightly ahead of New York in license sales. At the other end of the scale, Delaware leads only Hawaii.

The increase in paid license holders has been dropping steadily over the years. The average annual increase from 1965 to 1970 was 3.8%. That dropped to 2.5% from 1970-1975, and to just 0.35% from 1975-1980. Part of this decline may be due to an increase in the number of states exempting senior citizens from license requirements during the Seventies.

Total revenue from license sales in 1980 was $196,344,785—up by 12.9% over 1979. However, that hardly kept up with inflation, and the actual buying power of the fishing license dollar dropped for the fourth year in a row. Indeed, while the average license fee has increased from $3.29 in 1970 to $7.01 in 1980 (an average of 88.4% nationwide), there has been a decline in actual buying power that has left many state fish and game departments in poor financial condition—and with no pleasant options. As we've already noted, an increase in license fees tends to reduce participation; while failure to provide adequate stocking and other services will have the same effect. That's why the fish and game people are pushing so strongly for the expansion of the Dingell/Johnson Fund.

IGFA Lists New Records

The latest issue of the International Game Fish Association's "The International Angler" contains no new record listings for our area, but one local angler shared in the record-breaking down south this winter. George A. Witts, of New Rochelle, tied a record for blackfin tuna in the 12 lb. line class with a 35¼ lb. specimen taken at Islamorada in March. Among the most interesting of new records is the 802 lb. thresher shark taken by Dianne North off Tutukaka, New Zealand in February. That broke the all-tackle mark of 739 lbs. as well as the women's 80 lb. class record of 413 lbs. Both of those old records also came from New Zealand.

Australia Is Still The Place For 1,000 Pound Black Marlin

If you're tired of wading through all those bothersome 800 and 900 lb. tuna in your attempt to catch a "grander," then your best bet may be to gather together the family fortune and travel to Australia this fall. Statistics prove that there is no better place for giant marlin. Over seventy granders were weighed in during the 1977 season, but since then it's settled down to 41 in both of the next two years and 44 last fall. During the

(Continued on page 54.)

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THIS WEEK'S WINNING NUMBER IS:

9983-JK

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No call was received by the Wednesday deadline, therefore there is no winner for last week's L.I.F. Bumper Sticker Contest.

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MARLIN IV	Capt.	SUPER SPRAY	PILOT II	EVER READY	CASEY LEE
	BOB JOSEPH	ALOMA II		EBB TIDE III	WILHELRIC II
	Capt. SCOTTY	STARSTREAM II			COMMODORE
	Capt.	Capt. LOU FLEET			
	BEN LITWIN				
	CAPT. ROD				
	CAPT. JOSEPH				

MY LIFE AS A HUNTER: A Short Story In Serial

Part Two — *by William A. Muller*

Alai had learned another lesson and again, the lesson had been learned at the expense of the death of many of her year class and there in the middle of it were those floating fish. The wasted sperm and eggs meant little to her except that somewhere in her being she sensed that there was a great tragedy. Perhaps it came from millions of years of evolution that produces a strong and unexplainable bond between members of the same species, or perhaps she was learning that once her brothers and sisters were gone, they were gone forever.

Within hours she found another school of fish from her year class and these had already finished spawning and were ready for another migration. This school was smaller than the vast school of many thousands that she swam with last spring, and from time to time as the school fed some of them were yanked away and never returned. Alai remained very careful about what she ate and frequently had to eat at times, on the run, while the rest of the school was swimming and not eating in order to satisfy her hunger. She would be plagued by this problem for many years to come because of her careful eating habits, but it was rapidly becoming a way of life for her and she found no disadvantage to it anymore. There were nets too. Not only the nets that floated under the surface like seaweed, but others too, and often there was no sign of the floating fish predators. However, she had learned the smell of nets and so avoided them successfully. Many of her brothers and sisters were gone during each encounter and by the time the school started south that fall the size of the school was reduced by half.

She was too big to worry about bluefish now, but there were sharks to watch for from time to time and when the school wandered too far off the beach there were tuna and billfish that chased them.

This pattern of her life continued for several years and each year there were fewer and fewer of her year class to make the northward migration in the spring and even fewer in the fall when they went south again. In the summer of her ninth year there was something new to worry about. Disease! Many of her brothers and sisters became ill and developed large sores on the sides of their bodies. After several weeks they could not keep up with the school and were easy targets for sharks that fed on the stragglers behind the school for almost a month. This meant, with the sharks so close all the time, that at night the school had to be very careful and their night feeding was intermittent. Luckily, the time the fall migration urge came upon the school, the disease had run its course and the sharks were gone.

That fall they stopped at Montauk for almost three weeks. The weather was quite warm that fall and the food very plentiful, so the school fattened up quickly. There were the floating fish again, as there always was when the school stayed in one place for too long and fed heavily. She was bigger now and her diet contained more variety than it did when she was younger. Alai still ate sand eels, spearing, anchovies and other small baitfish, but she also ate small weakfish, blowfish, kingfish, porgies, seabass, and bluefish. Eating the snapper bluefish was particularly pleasureable to her since she still remembered the days when the big blues terrorized her school.

Between the floating fish and the nets there were only a few hundred left in the school when it moved south from Montauk. The school wouldn't even have been that large if it weren't for the mixing of many schools that took place in Montauk waters during their October stay. Thus, the school she now swam with, the one that was moving dutifully toward Chesapeake Bay was actually what was left of many schools; how many, she didn't know.

Her spawning in those middle years was very productive. She was healthy and the spawn she deposited each spring was strong and on several occasions, many, many of them succeeded in life. She especially remembered her seventh year spawn. There were so many healthy spawners, so many eggs and sperm that in places it turned the upper layer of the water almost cloudy, and when the eggs hatched there were fry darting everywhere. Several years later she would see these fish swarm north. The schools so very big—so many millions of babies.

In her twelfth and thirteenth year she didn't bother too much with the very small foods, except on several occasions when she came upon a dense mass of spearing. She was always a patsy for spearing and, in fact, they were among her very favorite foods. Still, she was big now and it wasn't efficient to chase after those little fish. She stalked large bunker mostly now and from time to time there were great schools of squid which quickly satisfied her hunger. There were also large herring and flounders were good and abundant at certain times of the year. She didn't make the long swim north to Massachusetts in her thirteenth year and instead she stayed along Long Island's south shore feeding on bunker. However, occasionally there were no bunker and that meant she had to scavenge for whatever she could find. Mostly she ate crabs in those lean summer weeks, but every once in awhile there was an eel that swam too close or a flounder or some other small fish that was big enough for a meal and yet small enough to catch.

She swam now with only three others. She didn't even know any of them, but they were bass of about the same size and that was good enough. It seemed that each year there were new fish to swim with. They were always females now; all the males from her year class were gone. In

most years she led the school since the others sensed that she was careful and wise; but the year they stayed in Long Island waters for the summer it was Etol who led them. Etol was not careful enough for Alai, but Alai neither left the group nor made danger signals. Then one night Etol led the group into trouble. They were feeding on large bunker and the bait was so plentiful that each fish packed away a half dozen, stacked neatly side to side in their stomachs. Their stomachs were distended and they should have stopped, but Etol would not let them.

Alai sensed that something was out of order and although she did not at that moment see the floating fish, the bunker had suddenly changed their swimming. Alai flashed the warning signal, but the others didn't listen. Slowly she sank away to the bottom and there she took a place between several rocks. One by one, the other three cows were stuck on a bunker, and slowly pulled towards the surface where Alai now saw the floating fish. She was alone again.

She spent the summer by herself and found plenty to eat. She was still growing. She did not join with other bass until the fall migration, and then she swam with two other cows that were slightly larger than she. When they got to the Chesapeake, something felt different inside her and she did not go up into the bay, as she often did before. Instead she felt she must stay in the ocean and the three big fish swam a little further south, and as the water became colder they settled in a trough about two miles off the beach.

For much of the winter they were lifeless, but there were several stretches of two or three days each when the water turned a little warmer and they were able to swim around and feed. It was on one of these days that Alai heard the noise. Although she could not see a floating fish, she still heard the noise that she had come to associate with the floating fish. She also learned that her great bulk was no help against these floating predators. She warned her companions. Then out of the cloudy water she saw the net moving towards them. She quickly flashed the signal to her friends and then darted down into a furrow in the bottom. She pressed her body hard against the bottom of the trough and her companions followed suit. The net passed above them and continued on. The three fish stayed in the furrow until the noise was gone. The rest of the winter was without event or danger, and when the spring came none of these big fish began to develop roe for spawning. They would not spawn again for several seasons and then after that, perhaps once or twice again. They could not swim as fast as they once did but they were powerful swimmers. There were few currents or conditions that they could not handle and this was consolation over the inability to be productive.

Next Week: Part III.

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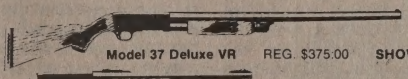
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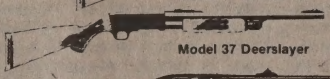
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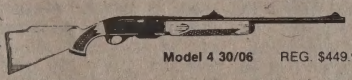
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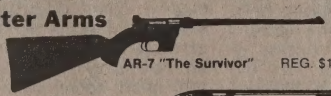
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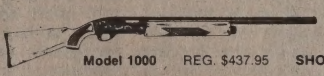
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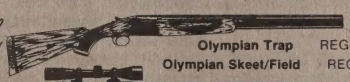
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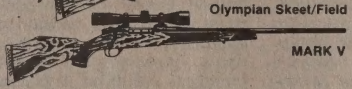
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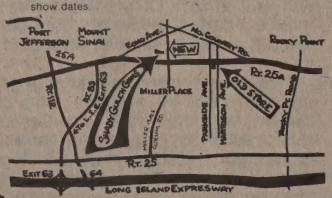

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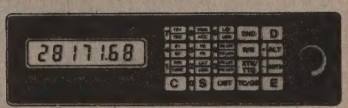

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LIGHTHOUSE WEAKS

by John Fritz

The pursuit of weakfish from Long Island's surf can be undertaken by a variety of methods from all types of shore line. Whereas certain practices offer greater sport, other techniques can be more productive. But in the minds of many surfmen no other activity can compare to the excitement of battling a game fish from the rocks protecting Montauk's famed Lighthouse. Coupled with the thrill of fighting a struggling fish are several physical impediments which make the successful landing of any decent fish so much more rewarding. Techniques and equipment suitable for many other beaches are inadequate here, but newcomers to the Light can, with a bit of common sense, proper equipment, and an attitude of consideration for the other guy, be just as successful as the veterans who have worked these rocks for many years. I realize that there are a number of fishermen who would not fish the Light on a bet, and there are those of us who sometimes wish this number was greater. At times, the crowds encountered when the fish are "in" is one aspect of this fishing which can create havoc.

Because of the handicaps frequently confronting anglers fishing under the Light, certain articles of equipment are advisable, either from a safety standpoint or because of the possibility of a big fish. To begin with, stout tackle is required. This is especially true when fishing elbow-to-elbow. A decent fish using the strong currents to its advantage will soon turn the corner, placing the angler under a serious handicap. Casters down the line, unaware that a hooked fish has crossed their front, will readily foul the line with their plugs. A fish unable to be held in place must be followed, which entails a difficult climb over slippery rocks, most of which will be occupied by busy anglers oblivious to your predicament.

Most regulars fishing "up front" favor using medium action 11' rods with heavy duty spinning reels spooled with 20 lb. test Ande line. At times, when extremely long casts are required or if the fish tend to be on the small side, some anglers will switch to an extra spool which is filled with 15 lb. test line.

In many cases when smaller fish prevail, say in the 5 to 7 lb. class, they may be swung onto the rocks as they are brought inshore. An additional reason for using heavy tackle; for attempting to gaff a fish from the upper rocks requires a long handled gaff, or a partner willing to venture into the crashing surf. An aluminum handle, measuring from eight to ten feet, to which a gaff head is secured is favored by many regulars working the rocks alone.

The various types of footwear found in use under the Light is determined by the protective gear being worn. Anglers wearing wet suits (which, by the way provide the most freedom of movement and safety) frequently use felt-soled sneakers or spiked shoes similar to golf shoes. If waders are worn, a choice between sandals, ice creepers, or felt pads glued to the sole of the boot will all provide better traction than the normal rubber-cleated soles. Because most of the water wetting the fishermen perched on these rocks is in the form of spray, an increasing number of anglers find that short boots, over which waterproof pants are worn, offer sufficient protection while providing greater mobility.

As each season passes, the list of injuries and broken equipment grows longer. Even with the best footwear possible extreme caution should be exercised when scrambling over these rocks especially in the darkness. Incidents resulting in broken rod tips or fractured bones can be avoided with a little care. On occasions when a massive surf is pounding the bluff, discretion should be the better part of valor.

One other common cause of grief is encountered by anglers who are careless with their back-cast. Because this area is so popular, either with fishermen or sightseers, a steady stream of people pass just to the rear of those fishing. It is wise to check for clearance to the rear not only for passersby but also to prevent hanging the lure on either the fence or wire baskets used to hold the smaller rocks in place as a means to help prevent erosion of the bluff. In the section towards Turtle Cove the distance between the wire and caster is narrow, forcing the fisherman to alter his casting technique.

The standard procedure when fishing the Light is to cast up current at a 45° and completing the retrieve when the plug lies at approximately the same angle down tide. When all anglers, in close proximity, cast alternately in this manner tangled lines are kept to a minimum. Naturally the type of lure should be similar and the rate of retrieve comparable. For instance, the one caster using a Rebel while everyone else is working darters can cause his neighbors a great deal of grief.

By the third week of September the migratory fish begin to congregate in the rips off the Point. Schools of small baitfish preyed upon by the departing snappers which, in turn, became fair game for the larger predators creates conditions ideal for plug casters. Standard lures for the Point fishermen at this time are the bottle plug, also referred to as the casting swimmer, and the darter. A selection of these plugs according to size, weight, and color frequently improves success. After a season of feeding weakfish jelly worms and half ounce Rebels this type of lure might seem inappropriate, but anglers new to fishing Montauk during the fall run can be assured that these plugs are readily accepted.

Darters and bottle plugs, manufactured by Stan Gibbs or under the Super Strike label, each have their advocates among the group fishing the Light. There are occasions when it seems that the weaks show a partiality for one specific plug. Therefore, it is suggested that the largest selection of plugs practical be carried. Occasionally it is difficult to narrow the choice of plugs to where they will fit in one plug bag. Trying to cut the choice when just two types of plugs are being considered may seem an easy matter, but when various weights, shapes and colors are taken into consideration, plus duplicates of favorite lures, the compartments of the bag are soon filled. Some anglers unwilling to restrict their options have solved their dilemma by carrying two plug bags. Since the bags are not normally worn while casting, but placed on a nearby rock, this practice does not hinder the fisherman. Be aware, though, that equipment left among the rocks has been stolen in the past few years. Therefore a careful watch should be kept on all articles—especially anything left hanging in the rear on the wire mesh.

Early in the weakfish run of last season, the hot plug was the smaller version of the Super Strike Bottle plug. The preferred color at that time was yellow, but on subsequent trips the massed schools of weakfish changed their preference to white

Gibbs darters. Casters using other variations of either color or lure did achieve a measure of success, particularly those offering a darkly colored plug on overcast nights. When visibility was unusually dim, plugs painted solid black seemed to perform with notable success. When in doubt about current favorites, check with Johnny at Kronuch's Tackle Shop.

On occasions when a heavy ground swell is encountered it is difficult to keep the lip of the plug dug in so that one can be assured that it is working as intended. The prolonged rush of the breakers toward the beach will sweep the lure along causing it to float to the top of the water. When this occurs it is best to accelerate the retrieve and reset the lip by giving a sharp thrust on the rod. If the angler exercises a little patience, which is a difficult habit to practice when fish are being taken nearby, he can wait for a calm period between a series of large waves before he makes his cast.

Although some weakfish were taken last year during the dawn and dusk periods, almost all the sustained action took place under the cover of darkness. Even though the beam from the lighthouse does provide a certain amount of illumination, a neck light is a handy item to carry. The background glow does provide sufficient lighting for minor tasks, but untangling fouled lines and spotting fish being washed among the rocks awaiting the gaff are two instances where a good light is welcome.

Winds from an easterly direction, if not blowing with gale force, often forces the fish onto the ledge where they are within easy casting range of those on the rocks. Cross winds, from the north or south, make casting and the working of lures difficult, but not impossible. If there is ample space, an angler can move around the corner away from the effects of the wind. A thought to remember is that most often the fish take up residence in the rip which lies off the center of the lighthouse bulwark. If an angler positions himself too far off center it will be impossible to reach this rip with a cast.

A practice which is becoming routine with many surfmen fishing the Light, is to arrive two to three hours before the desired flooding tide and reserve the rock from which they will fish that night. This custom may seem unsporting but unfortunately it seems to be the accepted standard although it often causes hard feelings for the latecomers who are shut out. Tardy anglers should not despair, for frequently Scott's Hole is open and will produce while one waits for an opening under the Light.

The difficulties encountered when fishing the Light should not be reason to ignore what is considered by many to be the best single fishing spot on Long Island. With a little preparation and common sense newcomers to the Light can enjoy a stimulating experience. One that I'm sure will have you making plans for the return trip.

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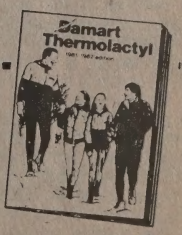

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SINKER BOUNCING

PARTY BOAT CALENDAR

by Matt Ahern

Sometimes I don't know how I talk myself into it. Wouldn't you think I'd be content with what I'm doing—fishing, writing my weekly column, fishing, replying post haste to the correspondence those columns generate, fishing? You'd think this would be enough for one beat-up old fisherman to take care of.

At times I sigh and give myself a swift mental kick in the pants, for the extra work I agree to do often sits like a stone on my brain. Then why do I do it? Beats me. Perhaps it's because if it has anything to do with the fishing game, I'm all for it. And the devil take the hindmost.

Now, take for instance, one evening several years ago. What started out as a routine reply for information turned out to be a project that actually took hours to complete. I lay the blame for this on a letter sent me by Dave Osborn of Worcester, N.Y. (which is about 200 miles from Manhattan).

Because I file all readers' letters, I'm able to quote directly from Mr. Osborn's letter. Dave wrote in part: "Matt, I guess it is hard for you to believe that I am a party boat fan from away back, even if I do live in this upstate farming community, but I am. My son and I love bottom fishing and we often make a half-dozen trips a year, fishing out of Sheepshead Bay as well as Captree and Freeport—and sometimes Montauk. The only hitch is when we decide to go codfishing, or blackfishing, or whatever, we are either too late or too early for the best fishing. Can you send us some kind of schedule as to when these fish arrive and leave, so we don't have to drive four-five hundred miles for nothing?"

And here Mr. Osborn included a list: cod, blackfish, ling, whiting, sea bass, porgies, fluke, and mackerel.

Now on the surface, the answer to this request for information seemed like duck soup. It might take a little doing to compile a list, I thought; but heck, in 15 minues I should have it in black and white. Famous last words!

First, I would take each bottom fish of interest and jot down what long experience has shown to be its arrival and departure date. Shucks, I would not even have to check my records. This was second nature. Why, with some of those fish—mackerel, for instance—I could tell Mr. Osborn the exact dates. And I almost caught myself doing it.

But then a Voice spoke from somewhere in the deep recesses of my mind. That Inner Voice asked: "How can you do that? How can you be so sure? Remember that spring when the macks showed up two weeks ahead of schedule, stayed one week, and departed overnight? And the time they arrived three weeks behind schedule and had everyone shook up? Remember those few times when they didn't show at all? At least not enough to make it worthwhile?" Ummm... I could see problems on the horizon.

November—and the blackfishing is hot!

Well...only one thing to do. I shrugged my manly shoulders, went to the "vault" where I keep all my old fishing records (dating back to the late 20s), placed them on the old table along with those more current, cleaned the old reading glasses, sharpened the old pencil, made a pot of good old coffee, and went to work. It was then 8PM. When I'd finished, I had consumed three pots of that good old coffee, and it was 2:30 a.m. My head was bloody, but unbowed. But I had it. A neat, concise record of the arrival and departure of all those bottom feeders requested by Mr. Osborn. I'd done my duty to the fishing game.

But when I went to bed, I found I couldn't sleep. Maybe, that Inner Voice said, maybe if you included New England and New Jersey, it would make a good subject for a column. And that's what I did the next morning. It took more doing, but as I said before: if it has anything to do with fishing, I'm all for it.

Now, all this happened about five years ago and eventually I used that information in a three-part series on party boat fishing. I received some pretty encouraging comments about it and because of that I think now would be an appropriate time to repeat for those who missed it.

A word of warning, though. As you go over this calendar you have leeway of a week or ten days in arrival and departure time. Rarely more. Nature cannot be pinpointed closer than that in my estimation.

January: For New York and New Jersey sinker bouncers, there isn't much doing on the fishing scene this month. Ling and whiting are available during the first two weeks, and party boat skippers are willing to try when enough fishermen make it worthwhile to sail. Codfishing is slow; but on quiet days, some will be caught.

Slow going for New England fishermen.

February: About the same conditions exist this month as last. Look for a slight increase in cod on those days when fishing can be done in comfort. Ling and whiting available too, but not in record-breaking numbers.

Most New England fishermen are content to relive past fishing experiences.

March: More cod available for New York and New Jersey sinker bouncers;

but this is likely due to the moderating weather which enables more fishermen to get out. To show water temperatures are changing, an occasional blackfish will be taken by lucky anglers. Expect a few ling to come over the rail, too.

New England fishermen will find cod when weather permits.

April: New York and New Jersey fishermen will now find fewer cod when fishing south and west of Montauk. Cod catches at Montauk definitely on the increase. Expect reports of Montauk snowshoe flounder toward end of month if weather has moderated; otherwise wait until early next month. Blackfishing vastly improved. Ling and whiting on the increase. To prove summer is on the way, sea porgies will be taken in commercial traps, but none for the sport fisherman yet. New York and New Jersey anglers will hear rumors of approaching mackerel schools by the third week of month—but don't rush the season! It will avail you naught.

Massachusetts anglers will find cod. Haddock available, but no record catches as in past years. Cod and pollack for Rhode Island fishermen, with a few blackfish by mid-month. Connecticut fans enjoy blackfishing and an increase in snowshoe flounder. Ditto cod and pollack.

May: This is the month fishing breaks wide open! Mackerel, mackerel, and more mackerel for New York and New Jersey fishermen. Ling and whiting on bottom—take your pick. Blacks available. An occasional porgy for New York anglers, but New Jersey fishermen will be doing much better with porgies and sea bass in May than New Yorkers. An occasional fluke will come aboard. Great cod and pollack fishing at Montauk.

June: Except for mackerel, New York and New Jersey sinker bouncers will find this month a repeat of May. An increase in blackfish for New Jersey anglers, but fewer ling available except in the New York Bight areas. Plenty of ling, however, for New Yorkers fishing the wrecks off Long Island, and also to the 100' depths. Whiting available on the black can side of Ambrose Channel and east of Sandy Hook. Porgies filtering through in the New York Bight areas. Some fluke will be taken as they seek the warmer, shallower bays. Codfishing at Montauk still good.

New England fishermen will find a repeat of May's fishing, plus mackerel.

July: Good catches of sea bass, porgies, and fluke for New Jersey anglers. Fair for New Yorkers. Ling fishing good on the Cholera Bank "high spots" for Long Island sinker bouncers. Local wrecks and rock piles produce porgies and sea bass. Sandy Hook and inshore Sea Bright rock piles play host to fluke. Drifting off Long Island's south shore ocean beaches produces fluke in the bucket of many. Montauk codfishing holding up. Blackfishing poor this month, except for knowledgeable skippers who specialize in this fishing along the New Jersey Coast.

New England fishermen find July's catches duplicating June's with lessening mackerel action for Connecticut and Rhode Island anglers as the fish migrate north. Massachusetts sees much mackerel action.

August: New York and New Jersey sinker bouncers find the same bill of fare as July. Few ling available on the offshore grounds. Increased sea porgy action at Montauk. New Jersey anglers can expect a stronger showing of fluke.

New England fishermen find some fluke available. Blacks in Connecticut now found in deeper water; fluke along with them, feeding on the abundance of bergalls.

September: New York and New Jersey fishermen find migrating doormat fluke on the offshore wrecks. Porgy fishing fair to good. Sea bass begin to taper off during third week of month. Wrecks and reefs from Shinnecock to Montauk produce good sea bass fishing. Blackfishing improves, but not many large fish yet.

New England waters provide good blackfishing for Connecticut anglers. Rhode Islanders enjoy good fishing for all bottom feeders. Codfishing in Massachusetts good, but pollack thinning out.

October: Fluke fishing fair for New Jersey fishermen, but definitely over for New York fans. Those caught are good-sized. Porgies still produce action for New York and New Jersey anglers, but begin migration by end of month. Ditto for sea bass, especially in New York waters. Shinnecock to Montauk produce until early November, or until first line storm. Blackfish on the scene, especially toward end of month.

New England fishermen find same action as New Yorkers, with the exception of Connecticut anglers who find blackfish willing biters.

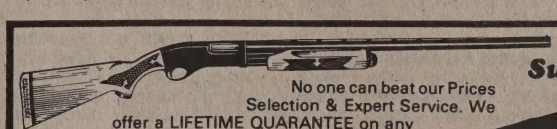
November: Winter cod run under way by end of first week for New York and New Jersey fans; slow at first, then rapidly increasing as days pass. Whiting on tap for New York and New Jersey fishermen. Some ling for New Jersey fans. Blackfishing good for several weeks, then decreasing as December approaches. Mackerel schools passing by on return run from New England waters. Cod reaching 30 lbs. by month's end.

New England offers good inshore fishing when weather permits. Good cod action in Massachusetts, with some pollack and haddock available. Rhode Island and Connecticut fishermen land cod and pollack.

December: Whiting and ling produce good fishing for New York and New Jersey sinker bouncers. Cod now more plentiful, some to 40 lbs. and over, then tapering off just before New Year.

Weather is now the deciding factor for New England fishermen. Massachusetts has good codfishing. Ditto for Rhode Island and Connecticut fishermen. Blackfishing goes into rapid decline as cold water grips the offshore grounds.

And there you have it: party boat fishing as I have known it over the years. I am well aware that some fish activity may have been overlooked, but space is at a premium. The list is not infallible; its scope is extremely broad and Nature too uncertain for a mere fisherman to claim pinpoint accuracy. But for those fishermen who seek general knowledge of our offshore party boat activity, this calendar will be found to be accurate enough for all general purposes. Check it out sometime.



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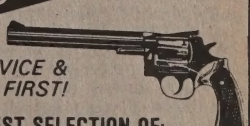

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A BOATING SAFETY IDEA

by Bob Whittier

Recently we had a thought-provoking experience. Upon returning to a launching ramp after a day afloat, we saw that a large outboard boat on its trailer was being backed down the ramp. We assumed it would be a matter of but a few minutes until the boat was launched and the ramp would be clear for us to use.

So we started a slow circle around the mooring basin, outboard idling and the boat moving just fast enough to have steerage way. One circle. Two circles. Three circles. Four, five, six—and ten minutes later we were still circling! By that time a couple of other boats had joined us in our "holding pattern."

And all that while, the aforementioned boat remained sitting on its trailer and hogging the ramp. The two chaps with it kept scurrying around, puttering with this and then with that bit of equipment. They held a conference over some instrument on the dashboard. One of them donned a bright new orange life jacket, considered for a moment, then took it off.

As this diddling around continued, we picked up snatches of the conversation between the two men. They were saying things like "Where does this thing go?", "Bill, what do we do about this thingamajig?" "What do I do after the boat slides off the trailer?" and "Do I turn this knob before or after we launch the boat?"

A column of steam began to issue from under our collars. Working hard to keep from blowing our safety valve, we slid our boat's bow up on a nearby beach, stepped ashore and walked over to the ramp. To one of the chaps who was standing in the boat's cockpit with a tangle of rope in his hands, we asked, "Buddy, why don't you get your rig organized and ready to launch **before** leaving home?"

The fellow looked at his pal with a half-pained, half-frustrated expression, then looked at us and in a grieved tone of voice replied, "That's just the problem! **I can't seem to get organized!**"

By then we were close enough to the boat to be able to see clearly that it was a brand new rig and that this was going to be its initial dip in the sea. Landlubbers! All we could do was wait around. Finally our Laurel and Hardy type boatmen were ready to launch and pushed the boat off the trailer. It had twin outboards and they were not tilted up. We winced, wondering what L&H would say when confronted with a four-figure repair bill for two bent-forward lower units. Fortunately it was high tide, and the lower units cleared bottom as the boat slid into the water.

As they putt-putted away from the ramp, we got the story from other boaters. The two 'lubbers who had tied the ramp up for so long had just retired, had moved to the country and rushed to buy the boat they had dreamed of for so long. We couldn't really be mad at them—just felt sorry for them.

Some dealer had sold them more boat than they were capable of handling. At first we cussed the dealer for not having checked them out. Then we learned they'd bought the boat from one of the many dealers located on main highways, far from water. We couldn't really blame the dealer. Waterfront property is scarce and dreadfully expensive; so today it makes sense to set up marine dealerships on main highways where land costs are less and there's more traffic to bring in business.

As we prepared to drive away from the ramp, we overheard one hanger-on remark "Those two lubbers are gonna meet the Coast Guard pretty soon and it ain't gonna be a pleasant meeting!" To which another responded, "Amen!"

This incident made us do some thinking. We visualized Laurel and Hardy getting their twin motors' props fouled in lobster pot lines, running aground on sand bars on a falling tide, speeding over slightly-submerged rocks, getting caught in fogs and in confused seas, all while in a boat they really did not know how to handle. We wished there was someone around who could go out with them, advise them while they were learning to handle their rig, and give them a lot of information on local boating conditions, hazards and ways of doing things.

Idea! For a long time the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the U.S. Power Squadrons have been offering evening classes on boating safety. But, does this approach to boating safety really meet actual, practical, present-day conditions? One can wonder.

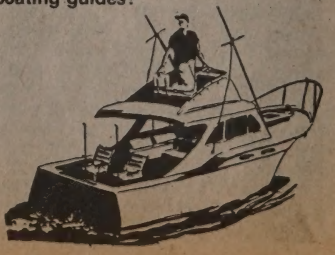
Many new boat owners are men of action who don't particularly care for classroom theory. Some are just too tired after a busy work week to attend a Friday-night boating class. Many live too far from places where courses are held to relish driving to them at today's gasoline prices. Some suddenly do well in business and rush to buy a boat at a time of year when no safety courses are being given.

Any time you need one, it's no problem to find an automobile driving instructor. Flying services at airports have qualified instructors ready to accommodate those who would like to learn to fly. In resort areas, you can find young fellows running sailing surfboard schools off the beaches. In yachting ports you can find sailing schools able to teach you to sail anything that floats. Even radio-control model airplane clubs appoint some of their more experienced members as instructors to supervise the flying attempts of beginners. There are ski instructors, golf instructors, scuba diving instructors, and so on and on.

But one can search a long time to find a person able and willing to check you out in your new boat, or show you how to cope with the boating customs, conditions and hazards in the area where you want to get afloat.

So, our idea is that it would be a fine thing if those in charge of overseeing boating safety would do something to correct this situation. In every port there are local kids who are very good small-boat handlers and know the local waters well, and fellows who work for boatyards, commercial fishing companies and so forth. Most would be delighted to earn some extra money after work or on weekends, serving for a few hours or days as onboard instructors to owners of new boats and to newcomers to their waters.

Surely something could be done to make it easier for these fellows and the boat owners to get together. For example, lists of qualified local persons could be posted in harbormasters' shanties, bait and tackle shops and marinas, so that upon their arrival newcomers could make quick contact with—shall we name them—**boating guides?**



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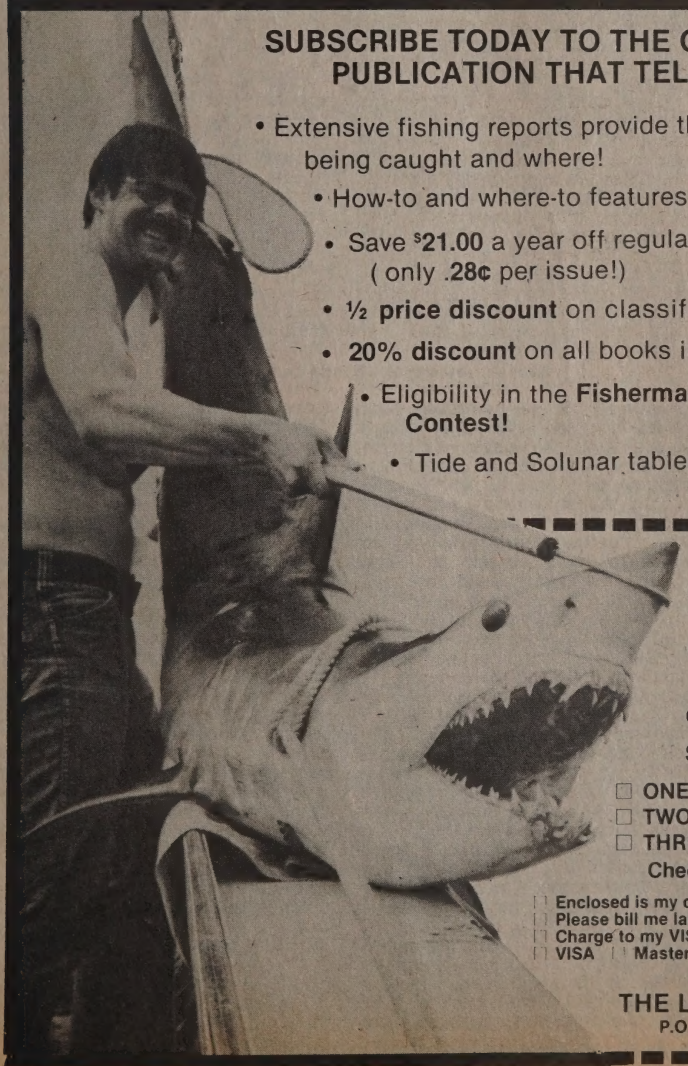

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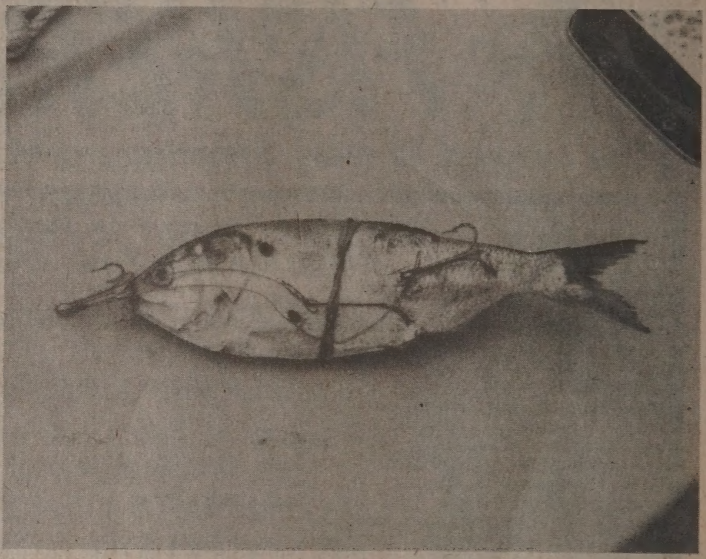
FALL CHOPPERS IN LONG ISLAND SOUND

by Don Avondolio

The arrival of the fall season arouses mixed emotions. While the fading of summer is depressing to some fishermen, the beginning of fall marks a period that offers super fishing. At this time of year, it's common to find large schools of big bluefish feeding frequently and heavier than usual. Seasonal changes in temperature coupled with strong northerly winds cause this reaction. Fishermen who have experienced the power and awe of the chopper will most appreciate this time of year. Unfortunately, some less adventurous anglers pack it in and retire for the season. I personally regard this fall period as a "peak of fishing" not to be missed. To stimulate my attraction further, I reflect on past experiences while fishing for these "eating machines." I am reminded of forty pound test mono and even wire leaders being cut to pieces by sharp teeth and snap swivels opened and distorted beyond recognition. These occurrences are not exaggerated and do happen when attempting to catch fifteen to twenty pound class blues. Big bluefish, usually cautious and sluggish during the summer, become even more aggressive during the fall season. Enough said; let's discuss the techniques and tackle used to catch these alligators during the fall season.

Favorite techniques for chopper fishing in the fall are trolling, casting, or live-lining. For all three techniques, a medium to heavy action, two-handed boat rod, approximately 6½' to 7½' long, will suffice. Large blues are noted for their erratic, multi-directional movement during battle and also have a talent for aerobatics. Thus, a reel offering good line control is ideal for this type of fishing. A conventional, or baitcasting reel from 1/0 to 3/0 size and sporting a smooth drag system, is a good choice. For most casting and live-lining, 20 to 30 lb. mono will suffice. Some anglers may elect to use large spin reels for casting. These reels will eliminate annoying backlashes, sometimes encountered with conventionals. It's important to add a nylon coated wire leader (6"-12" long) at the end of your line when using a live bait rig. These leaders not only prevent getting cut off, but also help in handling and boating big blues. In conjunction with bait, hook sizes range from 2/0 to 6/0 size with trebles having a decided advantage in hooking efficiency.



Correct rigging of wounded or dead bunker.

The problem of attracting fall choppers is simplified somewhat by using prime bait: bunker. Fresh caught dead bunker rate high as a second choice. Live bunker are caught by first finding a surfaced school and then casting into the school and retrieving as fast as possible through the school with a snag hook. Frequently, no bunker will be found, so it's practical to carry several fresh dead bunker purchased from a local tackle shop. How you rig bait is almost as important as your choice of bait. The pictures show correct rigging of both whole and chunk bait. Blues have an uncanny habit of attacking bait and stripping it clear from hooks.

Therefore, three hooks are placed

Several plugs that will work on fall choppers.

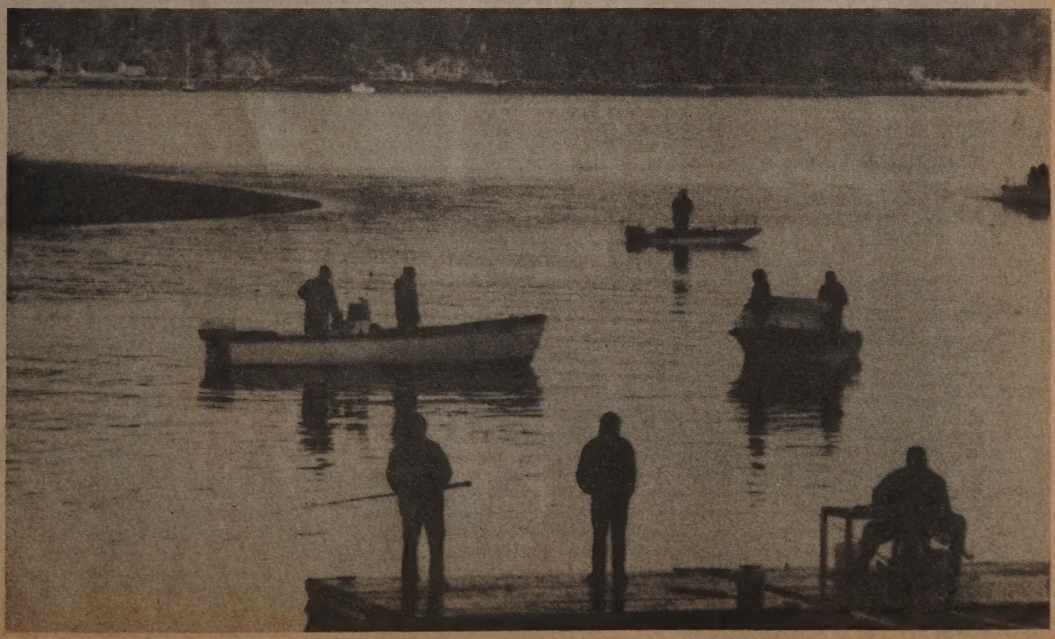
in strategic locations as shown. Several rubber bands keep the wire leaders connecting hooks close to the fish, purposely hiding the connection. Once in the water, the live bunker will swim slowly, or appear almost stationary. If you notice a quick, sudden run, you can be sure that a chopper is in the immediate area. However, when using a single chunk rig, a different procedure is required. The single chunk rig should simulate a chopped piece of bunker falling to the bottom. The chunk should be slightly weighted with either a rubbercore or pinch type sinker of about 3/4 oz. This sinker is placed 18" above the baited hook. When using dead or live bait, it's important not to strike prematurely when a pickup is felt. Allow the fish to run for five to ten seconds before setting the hook.

Productive fishing spots can be established by reading the weekly reports in The Long Island Fisherman. Information obtained from previous fall seasons has established the fact that ninety percent of the time, locations are inside harbors, or immediately adjacent to their entrance. Generally, bait is pushed inshore by strong north winds. Although time of day does not influence fall fishing, tides do affect the locations of bunker schools. These schools will be forced outside harbors during an ebb tide; while on incoming water, most baitfish will be found inside harbor mouths. This is a prime time, when choppers attempt to herd, or corral bait en masse for easy feeding. Harbor mouths, and town docks at Port Washington, Hempstead, Cold Spring, Northport, Lloyd and Huntington, to points east at Port Jefferson are consistent producers. Choppers will feed continuously at times through the day but this is not the norm. Scientific behavioral studies indicate that blues are active day feeders, and as night approaches feeding diminishes. Another fact is that it takes eight hours for food to pass through a blue's digestive system. Consequently, if a trip is made early in the morning and fish are not caught, try fishing the same spot mid or late afternoon. It could change your luck. If schools of baitfish are not sighted on the surface, other techniques can be used.

Popular bluefish feeding areas can be covered efficiently by trolling bunker spoons or plugs. Plugs made by Danny, Rebel, Gibbs, or Atom are excellent copies of bunker. To improve hooking when using bunker spoons, add a treble in tandem with the single hook using a swivel and split ring. For the best trolling coverage, use a pattern of concentric circles, gradually reducing the circle to a central point. Used in conjunction with trolling, a chart recorder can accurately pinpoint fish concentrations. Large inverted "V" marks will indicate single choppers.

When bait fishing, present your bait with spool and drag lever in free spool and with the click engaged. During one of my past trips, I neglected to take the drag lever off, and placed my rod in a holder. Suddenly, the rod slammed over and quickly straightened. The fish, of course, was gone, but an experience well remembered. Another alternate and popular method of catching choppers, especially during dawn and dusk periods is "plugging the shore line." Large two to four ounce plugs simulating bunker are cast and retrieved near rocks, bridges or shore line locations that commonly attract baitfish. These plugs are best retrieved to simulate a wounded baitfish with a fast retrieve, sudden stop, and twitch. The odds of drawing strikes from choppers are increased by casting large plugs, as blues satiated with bait are known to be enticed by larger baits than usual. Also, in the fall, schools of blues will be spotted on the surface. Diving, screaming birds indicate locations at this time. Use the plugging technique by casting from an upwind position.

Non-resident restrictions are removed on Long Island ramps after Labor Day. In addition to this advantage, crowds of fishing boats are virtually gone. So, incentives are high for fall season fishing. Once an angler has made contact with chopper fishing at its fall best, it is difficult to match for excitement. After two or three seasonal storms, prey and predator will depart from Long Island Sound. It is, therefore, imperative to catch the feeding frenzy prior to these storms. The usual departure is sometime during October each year. Past season records have indicated several 20 to 23 lb. monster size choppers caught, with 15 lbs. being the average. Probability indicates even larger blues are in our area during this period. So, play the odds; go fishing at the most advantageous time, and maybe you'll catch that BIG chopper. Enjoy the cool, invigorating change in weather and the unforgettable experience of doing battle with "fall choppers in Long Island Sound."



Bunker dunkers inside Cold Spring Harbor during high tide.

GIANTS IN THE MUD HOLE

by Al Ristori

As this is being written, the first couple of giant tuna have just been caught in the Mud Hole, and the fleet is gearing up for what everyone hopes will be a repeat of the great fishing experienced last year. Giant tuna fishing in the Mud Hole and other nearby areas off the northern New Jersey coast has a long and colorful history, but never before was there a run of huge tuna such as was experienced in 1980.

The fishing off the northern New Jersey coast was great and consistent sport for many years, though the largest fish caught there always seemed to be smaller than what was available further north. The great attraction was the abundant 200 to 400 pounders, which could be handled on modern 9/0 tackle. The U.S. Atlantic Tuna Tournament was started here, but better tuna fishing developed off the Rhode Island coast and the tournament moved to Point Judith for many years—before following the tuna to Massachusetts Bay, and now to Block Island.

The medium-sized tuna for which the Mud Hole area was famous suffered most when West Coast seiners joined their East Coast counterparts in a slaughter of the relatively virgin Atlantic bluefin tuna population during the Sixties. So depleted were the stocks that we were left, in the Seventies, with only the very large giants spawned in the late Fifties and early Sixties, plus the new year classes emerging from that winter's spawning. Unfortunately, the seiners kept after those young tuna and we still suffer from a lack of medium-sized tuna. The only good thing that can be said for this greedy destruction of a fishery is that it has resulted in the capture of giant tuna larger than were ever suspected of swimming in the oceans.

However, while the size of the giants increased steadily to the north and east, the Mud Hole fishery remained at a very low level during the Seventies—and there were few big fish. At the same time that 800 pounders were of routine size in Massachusetts Bay, the New Jersey state record remained below that figure. The Mud Hole had just about been written off as a viable tuna fishery when it suddenly exploded in mid-October, 1979. That run carried on into mid-November, but consisted primarily of 100-300 pound fish. Nevertheless, before it was over, Captain Bob Pisano's "Ol Salty," out of Belmar, had accounted for a new state record 956 pounder.

Therefore, 1980 was looked foward to with great anticipation. Despite the one huge tuna that had been taken the previous fall, most anglers were still expecting the smaller giants to be back again and were sticking with their 9/0 reels and 80 lb. line. Captain Ronnie Lepper started things off just after Labor Day with a giant of over 800 lbs. By the second week in

Roy Parsons' 963 lb. tuna heads for the bottom as Capt. Bob Pisano handles the chair.

Lines are checked on a pair of "giants" that were too big for the transom door.

September, there were many giants being hooked. Indeed, on September 11, Captain Bob Pisano broke his state record twice in one day. Piloting Marv Gutschmidt's 36' canyon runner "Runaway," Bob out Roy Parsons, of Roselle, NJ, on a 53 pounder in the morning. Back at the buoy, I almost immediately hooked a 1022 lb. giant that finally broke the one grand barrier in the Metropolitan Area.

With many anglers still smarting from the beating they took on the 9/0 tackle that had always proven adequate up to that point, this year it will be a different story. All the "pros" are equipped with the 130 lb. tackle that's almost a requirement for the largest of giants—and some are emulating their Gloucester counterparts with 162 lb. and 200 lb. test lines. For the newcomers to this fishing, that's a basic question to be faced right away. Big game tackle represents a tremendous investment, but with all the other money being spent on boat, fuel, and chum it doesn't make sense to skimp on your direct contact with the fish.

If you're seriously contemplating fishing for the giants this year, it's advisable to invest in 130 lb. tackle right away. Your best bet is a 12/0 lever drag reel, coupled with an "unlimited" class big game rod and 130 lb. Dacron. The lever drag reel is a much better bet than a star drag model because it offers a large drag surface which shouldn't overheat, and also provides instant adjustment of drag. The kicker is that these reels are very expensive. The Fin-Nor, with two handle positions that allow you to change gear ratio as you fight your fish, is by far the most expensive, while the Penn International and Everol are more within the reach of most anglers. If even they are too much for your pocketbook, you can get by with 12/0 or 14/0 Penn Senators. Those star drag reels are in a much more most price range, and they will do the job on giant tuna if you apply fresh water to the drag as the tuna is running in order to prevent overheating and seizing. My 1022 lb. giant was taken on a 14/0 Senator.

As far as line is concerned, stick with Dacron. Some anglers prefer to use mono, but that puts them at a disadvantage when it comes to actually pulling on a giant. Dacron has about 10% stretch, while most heavy monos are in the 30-40% range. It's hard enough trying to move a giant fish without having to pull all that stretch out of the line first! The old Garcia Hi-Bulk Dacron was regarded by most pros as the finest of big game Dacrons, but it is no longer made. I used Cape Cod 130 lb. Dacron on my fish last year and was very happy with it. Dacron is expensive, but you don't need much more than a reelful for a season. Since it's easily spliced, extra lengths can be used to renew the "working end" of your line from time to time. The fact that Dacron can be spliced also means that you can make a long double line without any knot that can catch in the guides at the critical moments of the fight.

The rods are the least of your problem, as they are available both through national manufacturers and at many custom tackle shops. The blank can hardly be too heavy, the best rollers are a must, and the butts must be of virtually unbreakable aluminum. The AFTCO Uni-Butt is a good choice. If you have a giant tuna chair aboard, the bent butt will prove to be a big advantage.

Terminal tackle is rather simple, and can be obtained at tackle shops specializing in big game fishing. Various pros prefer different types of hooks, but generally they're 10/0 to 12/0 triple strength Mustad models made expressly for this purpose. Round eyes are usually preferred over needle eyes. A giant tuna snap is tied to your double line (the pros I've fished with don't use swivels) and the only other thing necessary is the leader to your hook. All of the local experts are convinced that mono leaders are necessary in order to hook the line-shy giants of the Mud Hole. That's all well and good, except for the fact that tuna do have teeth. They're small teeth, hardly noticeable, but they will wear through even a heavy mono leader over a period of time. Most skippers favor 300 lb. test mono leaders, and figure that they must get their fish in within two hours. My record giant was fought on a 250 lb. mono leader for 1¾ hours, but the mono was still in good shape as it just wasn't rubbing in the same place throughout the battle.

Despite the local pros insistence on mono, there is some evidence that wire leaders will work at times. One friend of mine fished both mono and wire leaders one day last fall and had both of his hook-ups on wire leaders sprayed black in the Gloucester tradition. Another Gloucester pro, Oscar Amoruso (of Atlantic Beach) did just as well as the local boats when he brought his "Marlin" back from Massachusetts—and he was using #18 wire!

The basic problem is that giant tuna are just very wary fish, which shy away from any bait which doesn't look natural. The weight of the hook and the water resistance of the line and leader makes it difficult to imitate the free-falling chunks with your bait.

(Continued on next page.)

I've watched feeding tuna turn their noses up at a bait with a hook in it time after time, while eating everything else in the slick. How they can make such judgments while speeding through a slick has always amazed me. All you can do is work your lines so as to present the bait as naturally as possible among the chunks—and wait them out. Sooner or later one usually makes a mistake. Keep in mind the fact that handliners in Massachusetts Bay do very well with these fish using the crudest terminal tackle imaginable!

Your key to success is chunking. Carry several flats of bunkers, herring, ling, whiting, or whatever you can obtain. Chunk steadily, but not too heavily. Throw three or four chunks off the uptide side of the boat and watch them drift out of sight under your lines. Then throw three or four more. Too much chunking may keep the giants far below your lines, while too little may not draw them at all. Some tuna fishermen also use ground chum, but I don't think it means a thing with the giants.

It's always guesswork as to where to set the lines. Generally, it's best to drop one to 50 feet or so by tying on a sinker with a rubber band and using a float. The other line should be worked up and down by hand. If you leave your recorder running all day on the slowest speed, you may see long lines appear. That indicates giants are under your boat, and you should set your lines accordingly.

Another source of disagreement among skippers is how to set the drag for the strike. Some leave the reel in strike drag (about 30 lbs.), while others use only a minimal drag and let the fish run a bit before setting up. In either case, a lot more drag should be applied after the tuna has made its first run.

As far as bait is concerned, you'll have to do with what you can find. Giants are liable to hit almost anything, but your best bet is probably the same live ling or whiting they are feeding on naturally. At times you can catch these baits off of the bottom at will, while on other occasions they'll be impossible to come by. That was the case last September when we caught the two record fish, but Bob Pisano used a half bunker to fool them. When using a dead bait, remember that it must be rigged so as not to spin.

A couple of other things that are very important, in addition to your tackle, are a buoy and lots of anchor line. The buoy has to be thrown over to mark the anchor line when you hook up, and can also be rigged to help float the anchor when you leave. For anchoring in the 160-250 foot depths of the Mud Hole you'll need a good anchor with plenty of chain and at least 700' of line. You can get by with a short line in calm weather, but you'll never hold in that soft bottom with a short scope if it's rough. A full 1000' of anchor line is your best bet in order to avoid a long ride which is wasted due to the inability to get anchored. A pelican hook arrangement will make it possible for you to trip the anchor line right from the stern, rather than having someone run up to the bow to throw the buoy.

As far as fighting a giant is concerned, the only "secret" is to pour on the pressure and keep it up. Try to "steer" the fish away from other boats and any lobster pots, and fight him hard all the way. You're not going to accomplish much with your arms, so use your legs and back to raise the fish. Cinch your harness up tightly to the rod so you can maximize the line gained as you lift with your legs. If the fish doesn't pull you upright in the chair when it's straight up and down, then you're either not properly adjusted with the harness or don't have enough drag on the reel.

When the double line is on the reel you can almost always stop the tuna. With the double you now have 260 lb. test and it's almost impossible to break. Use wet gloves and hang onto the double—turning the tuna over. If you don't break its spirit then you may be in for a long fight!

The crew is essential to the eventual capture of the tuna. The leader man has to hang on while the gaffer gets a good shot at the fish. A tuna is a big target and the gaff will sink almost anywhere you hit him. Take your time and make the first shot count. Use either a flying gaff or an 8' straight gaff. I prefer the latter, as giant tuna are easier to stop than you might expect—and they never twist nor jump on the gaff. Have tail ropes handy and tie the fish off for a bit before attempting to boat it or put it up on the gin pole.

If giant tuna fishing in the Mud Hole sounds fairly simple that's because it basically is pretty straightforward. There are no great secrets—just the need to learn the basics and put in the time.

A few parting words for those just taking up this sport. If you have your own boat, buy the big game tackle you require right away. If the run gets red hot you'll have a heck of a time locating any sort of big game reel throughout the area. If you hook up, don't be afraid to pour the coals to the fish. Use your legs and back to greatest advantage and make the fight as short as possible. Rarely should a giant tuna be fought for over one hour. Most importantly, before going out be sure you've obtained a tuna permit from the National Marine Fisheries Service. The address is Permit Section, NMFS, P.O. Box 1109, Gloucester, MA 01930. The permit is free but you must have it in order to even fish for giant tuna. If you're chartering, you needn't worry about a permit, but you'd better get a date pinned down quickly. If the run breaks open, the best boats will be tied up overnight! No matter how you try it, give the Mud Hole a shot this season. Here's hoping that you'll be the one to break my record!

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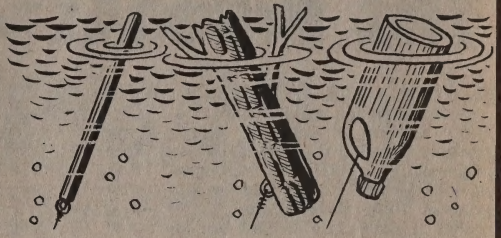
FISHERMAN TIPS

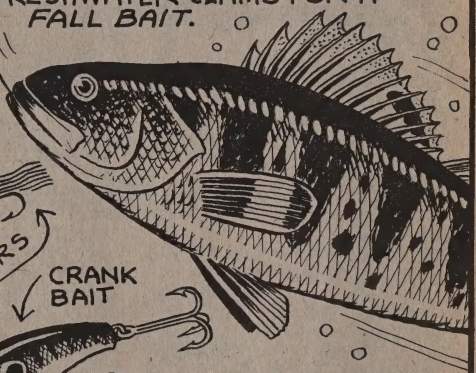
BY FRED GUARDINEER

ALL-BLACK SURFACE PLUGS AND BUGS ARE OFTEN RECOMMENDED FOR BASS FISHING AT NIGHT BECAUSE FISH CAN SEE THEM BETTER AGAINST THE SHINY SURFACE. BUT *LIGHT-COLORED* LURES ARE MUCH EASIER *FOR YOU* TO SEE AND PROBABLY CATCH JUST AS MANY FISH.

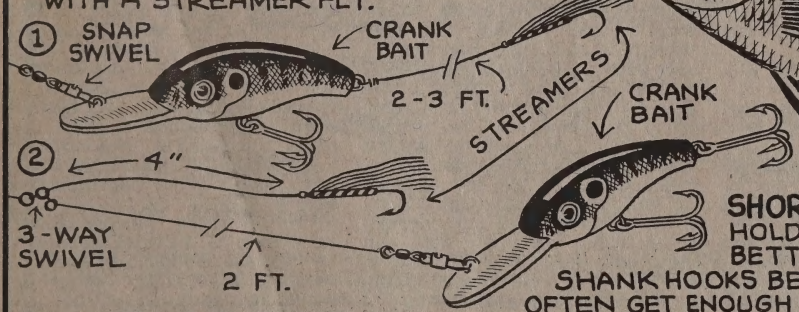
A WEIGHTED BROOM HANDLE, A BRANCH OR A SMALL PARTIALLY FILLED JUG CAN SERVE AS CRAB, EEL OR BAIT TRAP MARKERS THAT OTHER FISHERMEN ARE *LIKELY TO OVERLOOK.*



YELLOW PERCH CLAM UP: YELLOW PERCH WILL CLAM UP *(WITH THEIR MOUTHS ON YOUR HOOK)* IF YOU USE FRESHWATER CLAMS FOR A *FALL BAIT.*



TANDEM RIGS *(COMBINATIONS OF TWO OR THREE LURES)* ARE EXCELLENT FISH CATCHERS FOR TROLLING AS THE LARGER LURE GETS THE LITTLE LURE DOWN DEEPER, OR GIVES IT MORE ACTION. SHOWN ARE TWO METHODS OF RIGGING A PLUG WITH A STREAMER FLY.



SHORT-SHANK HOOKS HOLD FIGHTING FISH BETTER THAN LONG-SHANK HOOKS BECAUSE FISH CAN OFTEN GET ENOUGH LEVERAGE ON A LONG-SHANK HOOK TO TWIST IT OUT. USE SHORT-SHANK HOOKS WITH BOTH BAIT AND SINGLE-HOOK LURES.

PORK RIND RUST: IF YOU COAT THE INSIDE RIM OF YOUR PORK RIND JAR WITH PETROLEUM JELLY, THE CORROSIVE BRINE WON'T LEAK OUT AND RUST HOOKS AND LURES. ALSO PROTECTS THE METAL COVER ITSELF.

SOME PROS AND CONS ON THE DINGELL-JOHNSON PLAN

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Dingell/Johnson expansion issue is a hot one. Many fishermen favor it, many oppose it. Whether it passes as law or is rejected, or modified as a compromise bill depends on the reaction and response from the fishermen and boaters in each state. At the end of this update on a recent hearing for the D/J Plan are listings of addresses and a phone number to call to make your feelings known.

This information first appeared in "Outdoors Unlimited," the publication of the Outdoor Writers Association of America.

The July 8 hearings of the Subcommittee on Fish and Wildlife Restoration, conducted by Subcommittee Chairman John Breaux (D-LA) has stimulated more communications with this office on the D/J expansion bills.

At the hearings, there were panels of users, scientists, states, and manufacturers.

Even though NMMA and AFTMA expressed strong dissatisfaction with the bill, there were manufacturers who testified favorably. Here's a sampling of the testimony.

James R. Balkom, Jr., president of Techsonic Industries, at first rejected the bill. "After nearly a year of market planning and strategic analysis, our management team, staff, and marketing consultants have determined that the enhancement of our fisheries resources is the key to the continued viability and growth of the market we serve. Therefore, fishery resources are also the key to our company's continued growth and profitability."

John L. Morris, president of Bass Pro Shops, Inc., said, "D/J will increase the cost of nearly everything we sell, and believe me, price is an important part of our product. I believe, however, that the price increase is a very acceptable tradeoff... D/J expansion alone will not solve all our problems, but it is the best and most logical and equitable plan available and I urge its adoption." Dick Kotis, president of Fred Arbogast Co. and at one time president of AFTMA, testified strongly in favor of the bill.

David Newton, assistant to the president of Hydra-Sports, said that his company supports the bill "with all of the strength and determination it can muster." He also related the support of Sheldon Coleman, chairman of The Coleman Company. He reported that Coleman is the world's largest manufacturer of canoes in terms of units and expects to sell more than 50,000 this year. Coleman's message: "...We firmly believe the funds generated by this Act will provide greatly needed assistance to enhance the fishing and boating experience... I am especially impressed with...the provision that up to 10 percent of the funds may be used to educate the millions of youngsters of this country toward a greater appreciation of our water resources..."

Ray Scott of BASS, Inc., expressed support on behalf of its 385,000 fishermen and boater members. He said, "...we know there is no free ride, and we are willing to pay our fair share for the improvement of fishing and boating even though it means an extra three percent excise tax on boats, motors, trailers, and other fishing related boating equipment."

Thomas R. Schedler of AFTMA testified that "Any expansion of the Dingell/Johnson program at this time would be premature." He emphasized that AFTMA still endorses the concept of having an allocated fund to maintain and improve the resource, but that any expansion of the D/J tax would be "inflationary and completely out of step and inconsistent with the overall direction of the Reagan Administration." He stressed that to have another tax placed on many of the small businesses that comprise the fishing tackle industry would be an unjust burden on an already unhealthy industry.

Schedler emphasized the inequities and suggested that this was not the time to apply band-aid solutions to the need for additional funds, but asked others in the sport fishing community to join AFTMA in calling for a totally objective, comprehensive national study.

NMMA testimonial was by Jim Christian of Patton, Boggs & Blow, Washington counsel (in the absence of NMMA president Jeff Napier). Patton questioned whether expansion would actually increase fishing opportunities instead of merely expanding the fisheries bureaucracy and he challenged the fairness of taxing a few hundred thousand new boat purchasers annually to benefit tens of millions of fishermen. He pointed out that inflation of the past five years had already reduced the small boat market by 30 to 40 percent, and that the proposed three percent tax could further impact small boat sales by as much as ten percent, and that such a reduction in sales could eliminate 30,000 to 40,000 jobs in the boat industry.

The NMMA release listed others expressing dissatisfaction with the D/J expansion bill: National Boating Federation, Boat/US, AFTMA, Marine Retailers Association of America, and NMMA directors David Loveless of Boston Whaler, Dick Lincoln of OMC, and Joe Swift of Mercury Marine.

Earlier, Trout Unlimited staged a Capitol Hill Conference on the future of sport fishing in America, followed by a reception for Congressmen, Senators, and the angling public. Their story indicates that there are 24 other professional fisheries and sportsmen's groups supporting D/J. Highlighting this reception was the appearance of Vice President George Bush, who said, "Both the President and I took a stand in favor of the principle of expansion of our facilities when we campaigned for office... we remain committed to that principle, as it is exemplified by the development and expansion of the Dingell/Johnson Act..."

The American Fisheries Society surveyed all 63 fisheries agencies in the 50 states and found an additional need for $114 million annual for research, land acquisition, and development programs.

A National Wildlife Federation release called upon its members and affiliate organizations to push for passage of the bill. In a letter to the president of AFTMA, Dr. Jay D. Hair, executive vice president of NWF sharply criticized the AFTMA for withdrawing support.

There are pros and cons to the issue. Readers are encouraged to write to Congressmen and Senators serving on the subcommittees. To get the lists of members, write: House Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment, Room H2-544, Annex II, Washington, DC 20515; House Select Revenue Measures Subcommittee, Room 1136, Longworth Building, Washington, DC 20515; and the Senate Subcommittee on Environmental Pollution, Room 4204, Dirksen Building, Washington, DC 20510. To reach any member of Congress by phone, the central number is (202) 224-3121.

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EDITORIAL:
Public Hearing Commentary

(Continued from page 6.)

fishing industries because, both in philosophy and methods, the two are not compatible. Allowing these two interests to fish the same waters leads to social conflict, violence, and confrontation. The DEC has not been effective in separating the two groups through policy, regulation, and legislation. In fact, what few laws have been passed to minimize this conflict have been passed with the strong support of recreational fishermen over the strong or mild objections of the DEC. The recreational fishing industry must gain virtually sole access to the inshore grounds the years ahead for two reasons: One, our methods do not destroy vital spawning and nursery grounds, and two, we cannot, for the most part, sustain the industry on the offshore grounds for economic reasons. In short, we have nowhere to go. We are married by circumstances to the inshore grounds and the estuary. Again, the DEC has not taken any leadership position on this issue.

We have, since 1973, talked with the DEC about these issues. We have provided data and information and yet we have not been able to effect a change in approach or philosophy because the DEC has been, and is wedded to the commercial fishing interests. We find this to be incredible in view of Long Island's large tourist industry and an expanding population following World War II which has made the pre-war commercial harvesting techniques practical and essentially archaic.

We do not believe that the DEC is capable of effective management and protection of our marine resources and in fact we find the DEC unworthy of the privilege of continued responsibility for these objectives. We must repeat a call we made in 1973-74 when we called for the DEC to be disbanded. We have tried to change them and at times, we have defended them because the DEC led us to believe that the future would be different from the past. However, we have come to the conclusion after years of patience that the zebra cannot change its stripes. We believe that we need two agencies: a recreational DEC and a commercial DEC, each one charged with the responsibilty of looking out for the interests of the industry they represent and a joint over-agency to coordinate the two under-agencies with the advice and approval of the fisheries advisory committee.

We spoke of a recognition of how hard it is for some to accept change and, therefore, it becomes the responsibility of government to assert leadership and thus effect needed change. Well, we think it is important that you know we practice the philosophies that we preach. We must all accept the notion that the habitat and resources come first and at times that may be a hard pill to swallow. Many of our readers and advertisers are opposed to the recreational fishing license and yet we support the concept of a meaningful recreational marine fishing license: not another tax, but a meaningful license that will help promote better management and gather better data and lead to healthier marine fisheries.

We pledge to you our continued support to promote better marine resources management and we urge that the DEC, as it is presently constituted, should be disbanded. We need to establish a new and responsive agency with the help of concerned and informed people. Only a new agency or department with new personnel can promote the effective management of our marine resources. The people of this state deserve no less.

Submitted by:
William A. Muller,
Managing Editor
The Long Island Fisherman

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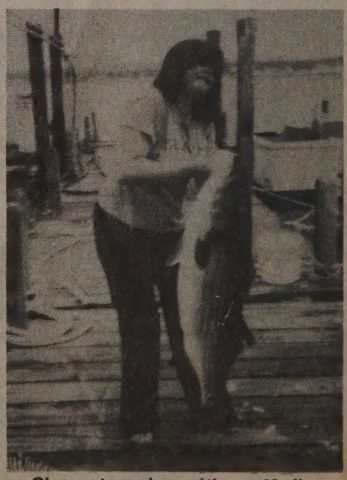
Montauk Report

by Stu Miller

The open boats **Little Bear and Flying Cloud** reports fantastic porgy fishing at the Lighthouse and at Great Eastern which started Thursday. "Plenty of roasters and broilers...real oven stuffers." says Capt Freddie Bird of the **Flying Cloud**. High hook for the week was Bill Halloway aboard the **Flying Cloud** with 240 porgies.

Capt Buddy Dorman of the 6 man open boat **Waxed** says "Too many fish to count?" for some, yes. But not for Chris Felder of Brooklyn. Back at the dock Saturday at 2:30 p.m., Chris hoisted 245 porgies. Low man was 185 porgies for the day. Bud starts open boat striped bass fishing Monday, October 5th on a 5:30 a.m. daily sailing schedule. See ad for details. He is also accepting charters.

Capt Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fleet** reports that fluking is about done and that porgies will replace that sailing schedule that was occupied by fluke. Night bluefishing remains tremendous with as many gorillas as you can pull. There was such a huge night bluefishing turn out for Saturday night that Paul had to have all 3 boats sail bluefish. All 3 boats had an all out slaughter on Cartwright gorillas. The codfishing at Cox's Ledge remains excellent fish running from 12 lbs. on up. Pool fish are usually between 30 and 50 pounders. The skipper tells us that the porgies have landed at Montauk in fantastic numbers and that they are as thick as fleas off the Lighthouse. These are



Clara struggles with a 40 lb. striper that hit a trolled plug at Great Eastern. The cow was caught aboard the charter boat "Windy."

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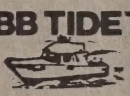

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mixed fish and PLENTY. Having just completed the first Nantucket wreck trip, Paul says they had a very big catch of cod, pollack and hake with the pool fish being a cod in the high 50s. He advises remaining openings for the September 20th Nantucket wreck trip is going fast, so call now if interested.

Charter boat **Montauk** called to advise that the Cartwright bluefishing is super with big solid catches every trip out on bait. Offshore fishing is excellent. On Saturday 12 blue sharks were caught between 200 and 300 lbs. with some being tagged and released. Mike says as of now the school tuna catches are slowly dropping off.

Capt Richie Rade of the **Marlin Fleet** announces a new run of porgies has just invaded Montauk and his fares are bailing anywhere from 80 to 150 porgies a man, fish running ½ to 3 lbs. at the Lighthouse. Plenty of blues on the day trips aboard the **Marlin V**, catches averaging 10 to 15 choppers a man with high hook daily running from 25 to 30 fish in the 12 to 20 lb. class. This is all on bait at Cartwright. Nights are equally dynamic.

Capt Jerry McGrath of the charterboat **Nostalgia II** tells us that the Cartwright bluefishing was very good for David Portman and family, taking 15 big blues on a half-day charter. Daughter Ellen was high hook and had the biggest fish of the day. Another trip for David Smoren fished half-day tuna and half-day blues. They had 3 bluefin tuna up to 20 lbs., 1 bonito and 10 big bluefish on herring. The tuna hit cedar plugs. Another charter for Roland Shar and party boated 7 bluefin tuna from 20 to 25 lbs., 1 bone and 8 Cartwright monsters.

Charterboat **Julie III** called to report Friday's charter led by Louie Belozquez boated 720 lbs. of porgies up to 4 lbs. 2 ozs. at Great Eastern on clam. Saturday's charter for Artie Wherman had 1500 lbs. of bluefish working south of Block on diamond jigs. Sunday's charter for Barry

Sharon Witolin and Joyce McGinley with 5 true albacore taken at Montauk aboard the Mako Express.

The three biggies taken by Mike, Rudy and Joe went 61, 50 and 42 lbs. All were taken on Jig and tube combos aboard the "Vivienne" at Montauk.

Howell scored with 1150 lbs. of blues same area, also on jigs.

Star Island Yacht Club called with the results of their 2nd Annual Tuna Tournament held this weekend. Saturday saw 8 tuna caught and Sunday the body count was 12. First place winner, Capt. A. Fusco on Yesterday II, a 497 lb. tuna taking $6,440 in prize money. 2nd place, Capt J. Lemmens on the Mistress Too with a 475 lb. tuna, taking $1,440 in prize money. 3rd place went to Capt Dick Orlandi on the Three Sons with a 431 lb. giant, nailing down $720 in prize money. A $100 consolation prize for the smallest tuna sent to Capt John Abplanalt on his boat Sea Lion II with a 289 lb. tuna.

Montauk Marine Basin tells of 3 giant tuna taken at the Mud Hole Friday of last week on bait and chum. Ron Onorado had 628 pounder. George Oliver had 385 pounder and Bill Bedel had a 338 pounder.

Capt Zac on the light tackle charterboat **Mako Express** called to report Saturday's trip for Sharon and Rich Witolin, Bruce Boehm and John LoRusso scored with 8 blue shark including an estimated 250 pounder for Sharon on the west bank of the Butterfish Hole. Sunday's half-day trip for Mary and Bernie Ruf diamond jigged 10 alligator blues on 8 and 10 lb. test spinning gear at Cartwright. Zac advises that he still has some weekend dates available.

Capt Joe McBride of the charterboat **My Mate** reports that Lou Babski and friend boated and tagged 5 large blue shark, 2 of which went over 200 lbs. Saturday. Capt Fred Wrege had a 265 lb. blue shark. Inshore large catches of blues are being made at Cartwright and at the Sub buoy. The skipper has an opening for this Sunday. See ad for details.

Charterboat **King Wayne** tells of good fishing all week with Ray Porteus and friends taking 2 giant tuna of 378 lbs. and 465 lbs. SE of Block Island. Friday's charter for M. Hernandez boated 565 lb. giant while Boyle's Fishing Club bagged up with 100 bluefish up to 18½ lbs. off Cartwright. Saturday's trip for Paradise Fishing Club decked 58 fluke up to 5 lbs. plus a mixture of sea bass and porgies fishing off the Lighthouse with squid and sandeels.

Joe Hernandez of the Patchogue Fishing Club called to tell of the club's surf tournament held this past weekend on the north side. First place went to Tom Forbes with an 8½ lb. weak. 2nd place went to George Remian with a 5 lb. 12 oz. weak. 3rd place went to Greg Maynard with a 3 lb. blue. The weaks hit plugs and the blue hit a tin.

Maureen at **Gone Fishing Marina** tells us that the moon had good

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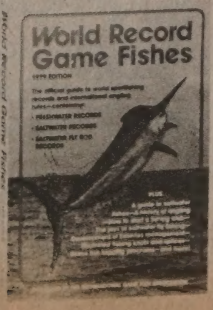

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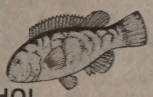

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BAYSHORE

CASEY LEE
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effects on the bass this past weekend as evidenced by a good catch of stripers up to 35 lbs. on live eels Saturday night at Great Eastern by Felix Pesinkowski and crew. Blues still a good item at Cartwright with drails and herring or bunker bait. Mike Cargill had 300 lbs. of blues Saturday and 650 lbs. on Sunday. Porgies are very good at Great Eastern. Aboard the boat Serinety 700 lbs. of jumbo porgies were taken Saturday and 300 on Sunday. Bill Ricca on his boat Alica Ann had 400 lbs. of bluefish Sunday at Cartwright. Fluking has picked up on the south side with Mike Bandazian taking 64 fluke to 7 lbs. off the radome on sandeels and squid, on both tides on his boat Hooker.

Glen Boolat of Whitestone and friends from Underwriters Lab chartered Capt Gary Kieffer's **Barracuda** Saturday and fishing 47 miles SE of the Point brought to the boat and released 7 blue shark, running from an estimated 100-325 lbs.

Captain Phil Lewis of the Charter boat **Adios** called to report that on his first Canyon trip for John McGloin of NJ a super catch was made of a 272 lb. bigeye tuna, 5 yellowfin tuna, 1 long fine albacore, a 70 lb. white marlin and a good shot of bonito. A 300 plus lb. swordfish was hooked during the night, but after a lengthy battle was dropped at the boat. Aboard Phil's boat Sunday, fishing in Star Island Yacht Club Tuna Tournament, Henry Luck of Manhattan bagged a 315 lb. bluefin tuna.

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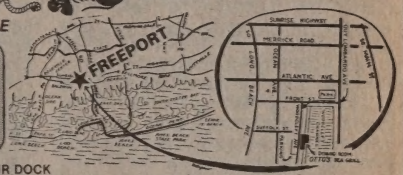

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Pretty Shelly Palumbo shows off an unusual catch made aboard the charter boat, "Nostalgia II." The 18 lb. mako was taken along with some big blues and a 170 lb. blue shark south of Montauk.

South Shore Report

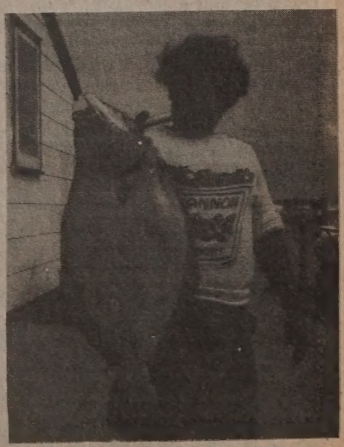
by Fred Golofaro

HAMPTON BAYS

John at **Corr's Fishing Station** said that fluke are still available in decent numbers at the inlet, the bridge, the basket area and in front of the Coast Guard Station. Don Morgese and Don Carney put away 15 keeper fluke fishing the inlet area over the weekend. Bluefish come and go in the inlet, according to John.

MORICHES BAY

Jim at **Skidmore's Fishing Station** said the best bet for fluking is the west cut of the inlet on the last of incoming and first of outgoing. Both sand eels and squid or spearing and squid have been effective on the flatties. Action was pretty good on the weekend with most boats averaging between 15 and 20 keepers. Over at



Eleven-year-old Louis Quijada took this 9 lb. doormat in the west cut of Moriches Bay. He left from Hi-Way Marina & Fishing Station.

Brian Fogelsun, Rich Nucatola, and Stan Fogelson with a catch of 19 fluke made at buoy 43 in Moriches Bay on spearing and squid. The trio left from Seatuck Cove Fishing Station.

buoy 44, a mixed bag of porgies, sea bass, flounder and blowfish is being taken by boatmen using worms or clams. In addition, a few nice weakfish in the same area on squid strips fished off of a high hook rig.

Fluke fishing improved from during the week to the weekend, according to Al at **Silly Lily Fishing Station**. Many boats on Saturday and Sunday returned with between 15-20 keepers. Best fishing was found at the Elbow, the new cut and throughout the inlet area using spearing and squid combos as bait. Snappers still all over the bay reminded Al.

SAYVILLE

From **Formato's Fishing Station,** Chuck said that most of the fluking is now concentrated down in the vicinity of the inlet. Trollers have been taking blues in the 2 lb. range near the lighthouse on umbrella rigs and snappers remain abundant throughout the area. Close by, those small weakfish which are normally abundant off of Sayville and Heckscher during September have been very scarce this past week. Over at Ocean Beach, small sea bass and porgies available to sinker bouncers using worms, clams and squid.

OAKDALE

Dave told me from **J&R Sports Shop** that the best bet in the bay right now is probably the blackfishing on the Kismet Reef. Use fiddlers or green crabs for the tautogs. Some big weaks continue to be livelined near the WR buoy on snappers. Fluke fishing still holding up at the inlet and sea bass and porgies being taken in good numbers on inside wrecks and reefs with clams or squid.

EAST ISLIP

At **Peppy's Bait and Tackle** Irene told of weighing in an 11½ lb. weakfish for Sandra Bleja on Friday. She took the fish near the lighthouse. Weaks being livelined at the light and at the WR buoy on snappers with a couple also being taken on Jelly worms. Blackfishing has been good on the Kismet Reef. Tom Bowman had a 6¾ lbers. there over the weekend using green crabs. Small bluefish for umbrella rig trollers at the inlet and snappers big and abundant.

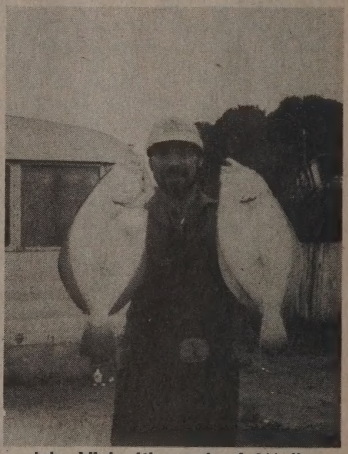
BAY SHORE

Carl Miller, speaking from **Smokey's Bait and Tackle**, reported that Dr. Braunstein used live eels to take a load of weakfish in the inlet one night last week. He was looking for stripers at the time. On Friday night, Al Randazzo used an eel to take a 31 lb. striper. The private boat JoJo had a nice catch of weakfish to 11½ lbs. on Sunday. They were taken on live snappers near the WR buoy. Fluke around but slow at the inlet. Plenty of porgies and blackfish on the Kismet Reef with some sea bass mixed in. Out on the Patchogue grounds, good bluefishing for fish up to 14 lbs. on jig and chum. Bonito and albacore are being trolled in 80' to 90' of water SE of the inlet. Use small feathers in red and white, white or green and white. Bigeyes and yellowfins remain at the canyon for those able to make the long run, while close to home snappers and crabs remain plentiful.

Captain Neil Delanoy of the open boat **Casey Lee** said fluking remained good through the week although action on Sunday slowed. The boat will now be sailing for blackfish and the skipper will be concentrating his efforts on the bay wrecks and reefs. The boat will be sailing every Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and holidays at 7:45 a.m.

CAPTREE

From the **Captree Bait Station** Noel spoke of some decent catches of fluke made at the inlet by the open boat fleet. Pretty good bluefishing being found now at Patchogue with some real choppers being taken some days.



John Viol with a pair of 4½ lb. fluke taken in Moriches Bay recently. He fished out of Skidmore's Fishing Station.

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CAPTREE

Frank Jones, Jr., Frank III, Mark Jones, and Steve Felitz with 115 flounder taken at buoy 39 in Moriches Bay. Photo courtesy of Silly Lily Fishing Station.

Blackfish now in fall form on bay reefs and wrecks with porgies and sea bass mixed in. Snappers still available for pier fishermen.

Captain Gordon Roman, skipper of the **Captree Queen** called the fluking pretty good with over 200 keepers being taken on Saturday. Fishing was being done from the Coast Guard Station to the inlet. The skipper said that although most days still provide good fishing there have been a few picky days mixed in. Henceforth, he will combine fluke, sea bass and porgies on his afternoon trip, the last of which will be Sunday, September 20th. Bluefishing was good all week, fishing primarily the Patchogue grounds and nearby wrecks. Size of the fish varies from night to night, with 4-8 lbers. making up the bulk of the catch some nights and 8-16 lbers. dominating catches at other times.

Captain Charlie Kennedy of the **Capt. Bob Joseph** also spoke of good nighttime bluefish action. Friday's fishing was the best of the week, with over 400 gorillas from 8-16 lbs. taken by the 35 fares onboard. Days have been hot and cold with Thursday's fishing a slaughter on big fish jigged from an offshore wreck and the weekend's daytime action labeled just a slow pick. A few bonito and albacore are mixed with the blues.

The open boat **Capt. Rod** continues to do a pretty decent job on the fluke fishing between the bridge and the inlet. Best fishing has been on the last of the flood and the first of the ebb. When tide conditions are not right for the fluke, the skipper has been splitting up the day with sea bass and porgies.

Charter boat **Sea Bird** captained by Ron Murray sailed members of the Sewicki family for their annual outing on Saturday. Over 100 keeper fluke to 5 lbs. came aboard in addition to a few sea bass. Fishing was done from the bridge to the inlet with killie and squid combos. Fastest action came on the change of the tide (last of in-first of out).

The open boat **Capt. Scotty** did a good job on the blues all week long. Both diamond jigs and bait accounted for big fish on most every trip. The

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skipper has been working some favorite offshore wrecks. A couple of cod were included in the catch on Sunday and a few big sea bass are taken each day along with a scattering of albacore. Fish at night are mixed sizes ranging anywhere from 2-8 lbs. Captain George Tweedy reminded that he is currently working to have the new Capt. Scotty ready to go by next June.

Charter boat **Lady Ann** reported good fishing nights at Patchogue and excellent fishing during the day on offshore wrecks. Fish during the day run 12-16 lbs. while most of the fish taken at night are of the smaller variety. Both diamond jigs and mackerel chunks have been effective on the choppers.

Captain Ben Litwin of the open boat **Capt. Litwin** labeled fluking this past week has been fair but feels it's time to switch over to blacks, sea bass and porgies since many customers have expressed a desire in a change of pace from the flatties.

BABYLON

From **Augie's Bait and Tackle,** Ski Kochanski reported weighing in an 11½ lb. weakfish for Kara Coakley on Saturday. It was taken on a live snapper at the WR buoy. Ski mentioned that he saw a few school bass taken on cast Rebels in the State Channel this week. He labeled the blackfishing on the Kismet Reef as very good for those using fiddler crabs. Green crabs worked too. Fluke, noted Ski, appear to be on the way out with those catches that are being made, all down at the inlet. Snappers at local docks still thick and good sized. On the outside, false albacore, bonito and bluefish for trollers and jiggers. Dick and Artie Orlando, owners of Augie's Bait and Tackle, took their boat to Montauk on the weekend to fish the Star Island Giant

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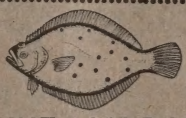

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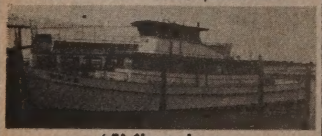

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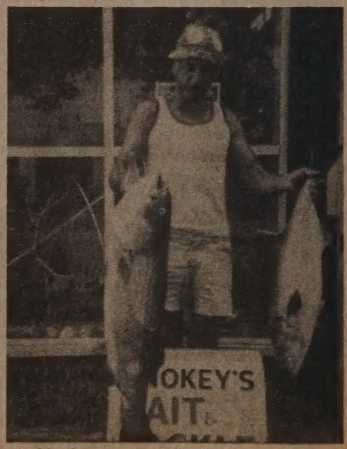

Al Randazzo checked in this 25.2 lb. striper and 13 lb. blue at Smokey's Bait and Tackle in Bay Shore.

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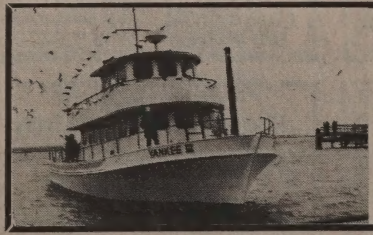

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Tuna Tournament. Both Babylon Tuna Club members, they put a 438 lb. giant aboard their boat The Three Sons. Artie was on the rod.

The charter boat **Luci II** fished offshore on Saturday and trolled a yellowin in addition to taking a tiger shark and dropping a mako at the boat. Action was between 160' and 180' of water southeast of Fire Island. Fluke fishing in the inlet remains okay, although fish appear to be moving out. More and more blackfish porgies and sea bass showing up in catches each day.

LINDENHURST

Mike at **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle** told me of a catch of 35 blackfish to 4 lbs. made on fiddlers at the Kismet Reef by Joe, Ken and Dan. The Manfredo family, had a catch of 31 fish which included kingfish, flounder, blowfish and porgies. They fished worms in the State Channel. A few fluke remain in the inlet while some big weakfish are being livelined at the WR buoy on snappers. Snappers and crabs still around in good numbers.

AMITYVILLE

From **Combs Bait and Tackle** Maria said that fluke fishing is holding up at the inlet and a few still remain in the state channel. Some good sea bass and porgy scores were made by boatmen over the weekend at West Island, Squaw Island and in Zachs Bay. Very good blackfishing at the bridges on fiddlers and green crabs and a few big weakfish on live snappers between the Wantagh and Meadowbrook bridges.

SEAFORD

A good mixed bag of fluke, sea bass, porgies, blackfish, flounder, weakfish and snappers. This according to Lon Wanser of **Wanser's Biat and Tackle Shop.** Fluke were taken on the weekend in Sloop Channel, the inlet and at Gilgo in the state channel. Flounder activity is getting under way but deep water is a must. Ron Klein had a nice catch of flatties in the deep hole in front of Short Beach. Blackfishing best at the bridges on fiddler crabs and snappers big and plentiful throughout the area.

Captain Brian of the open boat **Chinco II** apologized to customers for any inconvenience as he is temporarily out of commission until the arrival of his new boat. He will resume sailing on September 28 with a bigger, faster and more comfortable vessel.

From **Capt. Eddie's Fishing Station** Art said Massapequa Cove and Four Corners have been producing good mixed bags of kings, weaks, fluke, sea bass, blowfish, porgies, flounder and snappers. Larry Rice used one of the station's skiffs to return with a real good mixed bag on both Saturday and Sunday. Tom Ruggiero cashed in

on the last innings of the fluke season with a 10 lb. doormat taken Thursday near the Meadowbrook bridge on a killie. Outside the inlet, most boatmen have been running to the Cholera and chumming up nice catches of bluefish.

BELLMORE

From **Merrick Tackle**, Scott spoke of good catches of flounder but made it a point to mention that you must fish in deep holes until water cools. He suggested Merrick Bay, Fundy Channel and Short Beach using worms and clam chum. Fluke still available at the inlet and in sloop channel but are on their way out while snappers remain plentiful in the area. Lots of blackfish at the bridges on fiddlers and green crabs.

MERRICK

Lots of small seabass on the artificial reef in East Bay, according to Jimmy of **Nick's Fishing Station**. Flounder up to 3/4 lbs. on worms and clams in Rowboat Alley. Fluke have been hot and cold with good action on Friday, fair fishing Saturday and a poor pick on Sunday. Best catches coming from the inlet and off of the golf course. Snappers are all over and best crabbing is now found back in the drains. Bluefish action around the inlet has been slow, while for offshore fans albacore, yellowfin tuna and bigeyes remain in good supply at the canyons.

New York Bight Report

by Stu Miller

FREEPORT

The **Capt Al** enjoyed good bluefishing Monday through Friday. Night trips have been good also fishing local offshore spots. Saturday was off due to conditions but Sunday was an absolute slaughter of all huge fish running 10 to 15 lbs. at a pet offshore location. The quantities of fish were unbeatable and the sizes were excellent. A good number of albies were scattered into the catch. This was all on bait and chum.

The **Capt Bill** advises that he is now switching over to flounders and will be sailing a 2 trip a day schedule. See ad for details.

Capt Richie on the **Starstream II** has been fishing roughly an hour from the inlet and is both diamond jigging and baiting bluefish from 8 to 18 lbs. "No runts" said the captain. Saturday night's trip with Capt Chris Specht at the wheel was the best trip of the summer so far. They had

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John Salved and Tony Campasino with a 150 lb. mako taken on the At Last II. It was checked in at Ed's Fishing Station in Point Lookout.

slammers all night long and everybody bagged up with these big choppers. Also 3 times as many fish were dropped as were boated. Saturday's day trip saw a good number of big slammers taken also. This seems to be the time of year, as usual, to score with the monsters.

The **Capt Gary** reports Saturday's bluefish charter for Deomino Securities Aims Co. was spotty so they wrapped up the day with a good catch of big fluke in the inlet. This was on sandeels and fish belly. Sunday's flounder trip for Whitestone Ambulance Corp had a mixed bag of flounder, sea bass, porgies, blowfish and snappers fishing Merrick Bay and Reynold's Channel on worms and clam. The skipper advises that he has September 26th open due to a cancellation.

Hudson Point Fishing Station run by Ronnie (Bunzi) Bauer informs us that Henry Drinkwater on Friday fishing live snappers at Jone's Inlet took an 11½ lb. fluke. On Wednesday he had a 9½ lb. fluke, same spot. The Sand Pearl fishing the Texas Tower and trolling Balao and squid had a 125 lb. yellowfin tuna, a 35 lb. bluefin tuna, a 75 lb. yellowfin and they lost a large tuna at the boat. On the private boat Libra a 554 lb. yellowfin tuna was taken along with a lot of longfin albies and a 99 lb. sword in 600' of water at the Hudson Canyon on the weekend. Flounders are increasing in number at the bridges. Sea bass and porgies are being caught in the deeper holes on worm and clam. Weaks and large blues being taken on live snapper at Haunt's Creek and at the Meadowbrook Bridge. They are hitting on various stages of the tide and cannot be predicted. Fluking still very good in Fundy Bay, Swift Creek, Long Creek and Jone's Inlet on live killies 2 hours on either side of the high. Blue claws and snappers still available.

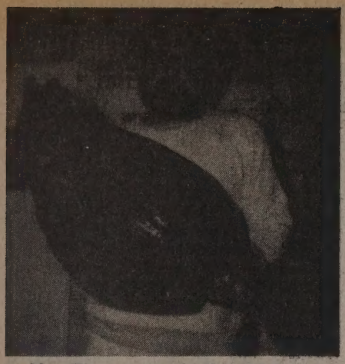
Capt Pat of the charterboat **Lady J III** called to say that Thursday's trip for Ed Dorhan of Carmel NY had a good pick of 1 to 4 lb. blues at Cholera along with a few small weaks mixed in. Friday's trip for RH Donnelly & Co. had a slow pick of blues and weaks at Cholera. Saturday, Pat's Emerald Pub, Queens, had some jumbo blues up to 18 lbs. south of Jone's in 100' of water on bait and chum. Saturday night's trip for Joe McNamara of Richmond Hill saw very good action on bluefish from 5 to 19 lbs. on bait and chum south of Jone's. Sunday's trip for Gerald Sireci of Woodside and group had albies, bones and big blues on bait and chum in 100' of water south of the inlet.

Capt Andy of the **Miss Freeport** which sails from the foot of S. Ocean Ave., reports he has been having good flounder catches on his morning trips due to the favorable tides. The boat runs 2 half-day trips daily.

Capt Tony of the **Miss Freeport II** advises that due to popular demand he is now switching over to flounders after a good summer of fluking.

Capt Walt Scott's Freeport Charter Service **Acme II** reports that after a week or sporadic bluefishing Sunday opened up with a slaughter of blues to 15 lbs. for Jimmy Christos and his group from the NY Daily News. Action was 20 miles south of Gilgo.

The **Capt Lou Fleet** which is flounder fishing, reports that Thurs-



Ken Timper caught this 14.2 oz. doormat on a live snapper in Jones Inlet aboard his Hustler. The huge flattie was weighed at Beckmann's Tackle Shop.

day saw Floral Park angler Paul Wetterau with 122 mixed flounders, sea bass and porgies, 37 of which were flounders. Friday saw Roger Parenteau of East Rockaway with 41 flounders and a mess of sea bass and porgies. There are very good mixed catches of flounder, porgies, sea bass, fluke and some kingfish and Mike says the fall is shaping up nicely.

The **Blue Fin Fleet** reports excellent night bluefishing all week long on bait and chum. The day blue trips have been slower says Capt Sy Karlin. Saturday night **BF II & III** with Capts Charlie Adams and Ed Geyer doing the honors, filled up on choppers to 12 lbs. The pool was split by Chick Miritello and Rich Ockovic. High hook was Bernie Monson with 42 medium to large blues. All right Bernie! Weaks to 9 lbs. and a few 4 to 5 lb. striped bass were taken at the channels early in the week along with some small blues.

Freeport Boatmen's Association reports that the **Super Spray II** has been catching giant bluefish at offshore wrecks on it's night bluefishing trips. Many fish have been running 15 to 20 lbs. which are real tackle busters in any man's navy. These are wrecks in anywhere from 85 to 95 feet of water. Bait and chum are the ticket. **Super Spray II** has scheduled another cod wreck trip for Sunday, October 4th. It will be a strict 60 man limit. Reserve early. All previous trips were booked to the limit and the trips have so far been very successful. Also please note that the Spray's night bluefishing will now be Friday and Saturday nights only. The other Association boats have been working the wrecks for big bluefish also for their charters with similiar results. Christy Lee had a 130 lb. mako fishing 30 miles south of the inlet. Lots of giants in the 500 lb. range were sighted but could not be baited. Big Foot, Barbara Ann and Fisherman had skippies and albies this week. The fluke charters worked Jone's Inlet and had very good results all week with a lot of bigger fluke.

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Bottom fishing on the inside is a good mixed bag of porgies, blacks and sea bass.

Capt John Stefkin of the charterboat **Capt Ben** fishing the Mud Hole Sunday had his charter into a giant tuna estimated at 900 to 1000 lbs. The monster was on for 2½ hours and was brought to roughly 40' away from the boat when the keyholing of the hook allowed the fish to finally spit it out. The fish had taken a live ling. The boat is sailing everyday with a special program. See ad for details. They also had a 200 lb. mako on that day's trip.

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A 70 lb. mako was taken 2 days earlier on the boat by Mike Brocco.

Anthony's Fishing Station reports that their rental skiffs are bringing back mixed bags of fluke, flounder, blacks, large snappers and sea bass from Swift Creek, Fundy Bay, Merrick Bay and Reynold's Channel on worms, clam and squid. Fiddlers for the blackfish.

BALDWIN

Mike at **Arthur Street Fishing Station** tells of some false albacore up

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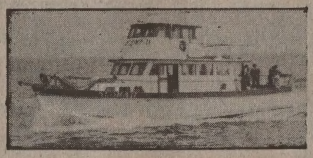
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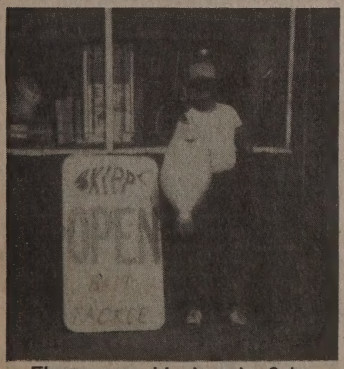

Eleven-year-old Joseph Solomon shows the 10.5 lb. fluke he weighed at Skippy's Bait & Tackle. It was caught at Ambrose on a sand eel and squid combo.

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to 15 lbs. brought in by a private boat fishing 150' of water due south of the Inlet. Saturday saw a fall mixed bag of fish brought in from Reynold's Channel buoy 17 of flounder, fluke, sea bass and porgies. Reynold's Channel is probably the best bet right now to fill your bag, says Mike. Some blowfish are also being caught, but not many. Blue claw crabs and snappers are still around.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station tells of some fantastic fishing over this past week and weekend with some nice fluke still being caught in the Flats. Ed Puzio of NJ had 15 keepers on killies and sandeels while Bill and Glen Opoff had 12 keepers in the Flats. They all fished the top of a flooding tide. Ed also advises fishing from the Coast Guard Station on a northward drift to marker 2 drifting across the channel being sure to cross the bar on the last 2 hours of the ebb. The fish are hanging on the edges of the bar and that's where they should strike your baits. In the Flats there are a lot of 1 lb. class snappers. At the Point Lookout Bridge there are fluke to be caught plus an abundance of sea bass to 1¾ lbs. Also a lot of sea bass are at the mouth of Sea Dog Creek and also at the Golf Course. Porgies and blacks are mixed in with the Point Lookout Bridge a best bet for blackfish on fiddlers. A really nice mixed bag. Warren Gander had 12 flounders to 2 lbs. at the Meadowbrook Bridge. A few small scattered flounders are being taken in various other areas. Try fishing live snapper for weakfish around the Meadowbrook Bridge and also at the entrance of Swift Creek. This method is taking a consistent catch of big weakfish.

Charterboat **Marie III** tells of Saturday's trip for the French Embassy (again) and they enjoyed a good catch of blues at Cholera up to 16 lbs. on bait and chum. Trolling SE of Cholera albacore of 2 to 3 lbs. were taken. The day was wrapped up on the inside with porgies, sea bass, blacks and an 8 lb. fluke. Saturday night's trip at 17 fathoms saw an excellent catch of 1 to 5 lb. blues on

Jack K., Jack S., Tony, Larry, Pete and Pat from N.Y.C.F.D. Engine 80 & Ladder 23 with a load of blues trolled at Sandy Hook on the "Kim."

bait and chum. High hook was in the 20s and catches averaged 5 to 15 blues a man. Sunday's bluefishing was slow.

ISLAND PARK

Beckmann's Tackle in Lynbrook reports that the biggest news right now is the excellent blackfishing at the bridges, rocks and wrecks on fiddlers and green crab. Sea bass, weaks, flounder, fluke, porgies and some scattered kings and blowfish are also being taken in local waters in decent numbers on worm and clam. Blue claw crabs are fair now. Again blackfish is the news of the day.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Al at **Reynold's Reef Fishing Station** says the Atlantic Beach Bridge is holding excellent catches of 1½ to 2½ lb. blackfish as is the Silver Point Jetty on fiddlers and clam. Sea bass at buoy 4 up to 2½ lbs. on squid. Aboard the Four Queens Sunday at Hudson Canyon, Tony Siniscalchi fishing a Kona jet bagged a bigeye tuna which weighed in at 150 lbs. Tony know leads the Atlantic Beach Rod & Gun Club for bigeyes. Al says the fluking has slowed down in the channel.

LONG BEACH

Bernie at **Long Beach Sports Marina** reports plenty of blackfish at the Atlantic Beach Bridge, the Gong Buoy and the 28th St. Wreck on fiddlers. Don and Frank Durando at the 28th St. Wreck had 40 blacks to 5 lbs. and 2 weaks, 9 and 12 lbs. on baby blackfish. Joe Beller took a bucket of blacks at the Gong Buoy on crab. The station's skiff rentals are averaging 20 blackfish per boat at the Atlantic Beach Bridge. Early flounder at buoy 1 for Bob Pettit and Randy Armstrong. They had 26 flatties up to 1 lb. on bloods. Still plenty of action in Reynold's under the bunker schools. Pat Kinniary scored with a 12 lb. weak while Jim Gentilesco had a number of weaks and blues in the 12 lb. range fishing live bunker at sunrise. Fluke at Duck Point on killies and spearing. Bob Olivirero and Greg Smithers decked 17 of them up to 3½ lbs. Some small bass being chummed at the Atlantic Beach Bridge at night. Snappers and blueclaws still very good.

EAST ROCKAWAY

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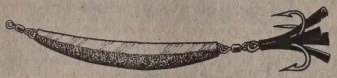

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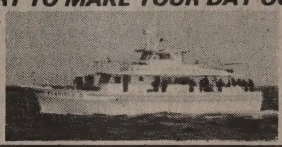

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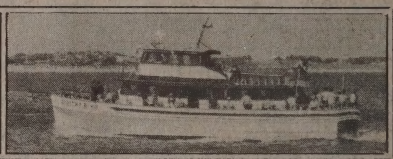

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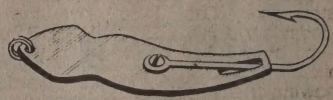

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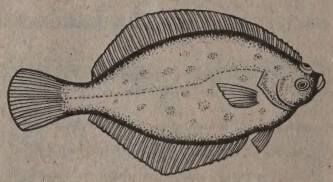

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small Rebels and Red-Fins. Mullet is in the wash. Fluke still holding at Duck Point over to the High School on killies and sandeels. Blackfishing was poor over the weekend due to strong moon tides. Snappers are thinning out a bit but are still around and larger. Flounders are starting at the Meadow Brook Bridge and the Magnolia Pier.

JAMAICA BAY

Pat at **J-Bay Boat Rental** reports the porgies are in and biting their best at Paragon Pier which is across from the station. These are sand porgies and there are big snappers with them. Nice bluefish at the Radar Pier on live bunker. Some teen size bass being trolled on blood worms along the grassy shoreline at JFK Airport. Blue claw crabs starting to move out. Small flounders starting at NW Point by the Golf Course on bloodworms.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Flamingo III tells of lots of weakfish early in the week. Fifty weaks were even taken on Friday's trip. Saturday and Sunday a run down to Manasquan was required to get a pick on some choppers. While Saturday had to be rated poor, Capt Walt says that Sunday's trip saw a good catch of 5 to 8 lb. blues plus bones and albies mixed in. Some stripers are making a showing on the open boats though it is not a blitz by any means. Walt had 10 stripers up to 10 lbs. Tuesday. This is all jig fishing. Some other boats had good bluefishing in Sandy Hook Bay Sunday.

Sal at **Stella Maris Bait & Tackle** tells of good weakfishing off the jetty, at Ambrose Channel and 17 fathoms on bait tails, bait and chum and also on umbrellas. These are 5 to 7 lb. fish. Decent fluking on sandeels and spearing in the channels, off the jetty, and at the Marine Parkway Bridge through Rockaway and Coney Island. Good catches of blackfish off Sea Bright, various jetties, under the Marine Parkway Bridge on fiddlers and green crabs. Bluefish of mixed sizes at Ambrose Channel on butters and smelts. Very few flounder so far

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny at **Santo's Sport Shop** says there are big blues now for boat fishermen working off New Dorp, Cedar Grove and Oakdale Beaches, fish in the 15 to 18 lb. class just ¼ mile off the beach on out, on live bunker best. This is from sun up to sun down and there is also a scattering of 8 to 10 lb. weakfish mixed in. The last two mornings in Great Kills Harbor 13 to 15 lb. blues have been smashing live bunker. Weakfish in Great Kills Harbor from 3 to 4 lbs. It's a slow, steady pick using drifted sand worms. Try off the Annandale Beach for fluke of 3 to 4 lbs. on sandeels and spearing. It's a slow pick at 21 can at the VZ Bridge

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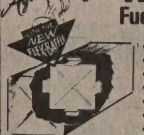

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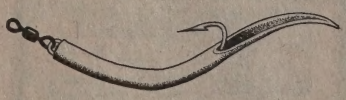

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These 3 doormats weighing between 7 and 8 lbs. were landed aboard the open boat "Elsie K III" out of Gerritsen Beach. Starting from 2nd at left are: Pam Simels, Gerri Simels and Ed Lewis.

for stripers to 5 lbs. on drifted sand worms on an ebbing tide. For sinker bouncers best bet is piers 8, 12 and 17 for snappers, sand porgies, lafayettes, eels, blacks and blue claw crabs. An occasional skipper, weak or blue is also mixed in for plenty of action. From the VZ Bridge to Tottenville snappers galore in the 4 to 7 inch size mixed in with loads of sand porgies and lafayettes.

North Shore Report

by Martin Garrell

NEW ROCHELLE

John Palmieri at **John's Gun and Tackle** informs us that there are a lot of big blues around the Harbors of New Rochelle and Mamaroneck. Some 16 and 17 lb. fish come from Milton Harbor. Fish are taken by those using mackerel and bunker chunks. A fair amount of fluke are being taken now by snapper fishermen and large numbers of summer flatfish appear to have taken up residence in the area. Blackfishing has just started and crabs are available.

CITY ISLAND

Greg Warner at **City Island Bait & Tackle** tells us that there are mixed schools of blues all the way up to teen sizes in the Harbors and off Execution Light. School bass in the area range from shorts to 10 lbs. Porgy action is not spectacular, but blacks have made a start.

Joe Ferraro says the **Ebb Tide** has been doing a pretty good job on porgies around Smithtown with most fish in the ½ to ¾ lb. class. Deep water fishing Sunday on strong tides yielded a number of 2-3 lb. fish for parties in the boat's stern, but Ferraro switched back to numbers later in the day. High hook runs anywhere from 25 to 40 fish per person.

GLEN COVE

Dave Watt at the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** is reporting some "super fishing" for blackfish on fiddlers off Pryble Beach, for big blues off Morgan's jetty in Hempstead Harbor and for big snappers in all areas. Blackfishing has only begun, with fish in the 2-6 lb. range. The blues on Thursday and Friday, taken on bunker chunks or live bunker around dusk and dawn were fish in the 10-18 lb. class, except for a group off Matinecock and Peacock Points which ranged from 4-6 lbs. Good sized porgies are also cooperating, and the Port Washington side of Sands Point seems to be producing a few bass.

HUNTINGTON

George Valentine at **Four Winds Bait & Tackle** says that there are still lots of blues in the 2-4 lb. range off Buoy 13 for diamond jiggers, and that the 8-12 lb. fish can be found on the other side of the Sound, towards Stamford. On Thursday, George pulled 30 slammers himself. Ronnie Ferraro at **Ronnie's** advises that bass in the 8-15 lb. range can be jigged off Callahan's. Porgy fishing can still be pretty good, though there are spotty days. Fluke have tapered off, and weaks are next to nothing. Blackfish are already starting with 3-5 lb. fish the norm off Marshall Field's.

NORTHPORT

Tom Bowman at **Bowman's** feels that bass are few and far between, but he's been seeing plenty of those 2-4 lb. blues taken from boats. There were some nice sea porgies by Bell 11B with a few reports of blackfish. This appears to be the last shot at the fluke off Buoy 13, with the heavy-weights all gone.

Jim Richter and his partner Richie pose with a 73½ lb. channel bass. The stray drum found its way into Jamaica Bay where it was taken on a live bunker meant for a striper.

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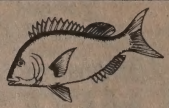

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KINGS PARK

At **O.K. Bait and Tackle Shop**, blues are still off the mouth of the Nissequogue; fish are 2-4 lbs. Blackfish are just starting with best action on moving water. On Saturday, Ted Kamatis brought 30 porgies up to 3 lbs. into the station. The scup were taken on clams off the Mansion.

PORT JEFFERSON

Candy Caraftis at **Caraftis Fishing station** tells us that there are still nice porgies off Oldfield and a lot of 2½ lb. blues by buoy 11. Fluke are still present off White's Beach with a number of flatfish taken by jig fishermen as well as with the usual sand eel-squid combos. Blackfish mixed in among the porgies some 200-300 yards off the beach at Oldfield Point, with a few tautog in the 5-7 lb. range.

Mrs. John Fisher said that the **Aqua-Gem** was still porgy fishing with good results off Shoreham. Pool fish are still blackfish or fluke, and blackfish catches were noticeable last week.

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MOUNT SINAI

Ralph Davenport at **Ralph's** says that the biggest thing this week was porgy action off the Middle Grounds out in mid-Sound. Many of the scup are in the 2 lb. class. Saturday was a better day than Sunday because of the boating traffic at the end of the weekend. Blues are scarce and fluke are slowing down, with a lot of throwbacks in the catches.

North Fork Report

by Martin Garrell

AQUEBOGUE

Ed Kopack at **Warren's Tackle Center** mentioned nice porgies from the Sound with a few fish to 2 or 2½ lbs. Blackfish off the Pipeline or the wrecks at Reeves are not really big yet. Small blues are still supplying action off Buoy 5 and outside Mattituck Inlet.

MATTITUCK

The **Mattituck Inlet Fishing Station** saw a nice start on fall blackfish over the weekend with one 6 lb. fish weighed on Sunday. Fish are in 40' of water east of the inlet and west of the Motel. There are still plenty of porgies around with a few sea bass mixed in. Weakfish show up occasionally in the blackfish and porgy catches. One 12 lber. apparently took a crab bait over the weekend.

NEW SUFFOLK

Newt Robbins at **Captain Jim's** thought the fishing for porgies was still pretty good with the fish "not too small." Scup are around 3/4 lb. off Roses, the Tower and Buoy 18. Somw weaks are still available with a 6½ lb. fish topping the catch on Saturday. A smattering of kingfish and blowfish can be found among the porgies.

Sal Loria at **Capt. Marty's** said the best porgy and weakfish catches in recent days have been taken by anglers who anchor and chum off the Radio Tower. Squid, clams, and worms are salable items. Best weakfish went 8½ lbs., with 3-4 lbs. being the top in most catches. Typical of the better catches last week were the following: 24 weaks and 100 porgies, 5 weaks and 75 porgies, and 200 porgies.

SOUTHOLD

Port of Egypt tells us that the Bay is still packed with snappers and that there are plenty of small porgies inside Paradise Point, off the Windmill, and off Buoy 16. Small blackfish are showing off Greenlawns and the Brickyard, with postage stamp flounders already in the creeks.

Off the Orient Station there were blackfish to 4 lbs. off Mulford and the Lighthouse with flounder east and west of the Station off the nets. Good porgy fishing still obtains, and Saturday's anglers produced some nice cactches of fluke.

GREENPORT

Art White at the **A.P. White Bait Shop** told us there were still fluke off the Orient Shoal over the weekend. The **Brand X** and the **Peconic Star** have been working on the big New London porgies and it's anticipated that the porgy action may hang on through October. The Race off Fisher's is the best bet for blues now, although there are some fish at Pigeon Rip. Private boats are taking nice blackfish from the Sound, and there are large tautog available down at Gull Island. Night bassing is best with eels, and there seems to have been a flurry of sorts on Saturday night.

Richie Jensen has been working on bluefish with the **Nancy Ann,** while John Rainis has been mixing blackfish, flounder, and porgies on the **Blue Albatross.** Rainis said that the weekend was quiet except for mixed size blues in Pigeon Rip and that blackfish off Plum and Gull Islands ran to 7 lbs. The albatross will be running as an open boat for about ten days starting on Oct. 1 in order to hit the fall blackfish. During September, the trade will be charters. Customers should call for details.

South Fork Report

by Stu Miller

SHINNECOCK

The **Capt Clark II** tells us that his ocean trips last week were very successful. On Saturday the boat fished 2 ocean wrecks due to heavy fog. Results were excellent and all fares caught medium to large sea bass, porgies, blackfish and sea flounders. Sunday they fished an ocean wreck further to the east and had to make only one drop. They had great results with double and triple header sea bass being hauled in plus a good number of blackfish. All anglers had 2 to 3 buckets of fish. Capt Clark plans additional ocean trips this coming Saturday and Sunday, September 19th and 20th. During the week fares are still getting porgies in Peconic Bay and will be turning their attention to blackfish later this month.

SAG HARBOR

Capt Artie Lach of the **Wilhelric II** reports that the fluke are about over and now his Tuesday and Wednesday sailings will be for blackfish since the Greenport charterboats have done so well on blacks this past weekend. The skipper reports that the porgy trips are producing all the porgies you could possibly want fishing at New London for mixed sized fish. Some days they are all mediums and some days all jumbos, depending on what schools are encountered. The last 3 weekends, the boat was sailing only 50 percent capacity so Artie advises don't be afraid to come on the weekends, he virtually guarantees room. SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20th, all tickets are sold.

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Surf Report

by Fred Golofaro

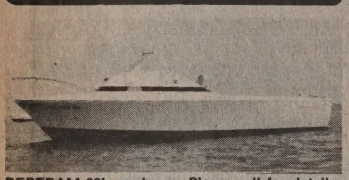
It was a long time coming, but Long Island surfmen finally had something to get excited about this past week. Action at Montauk opened up late Wednesday night and continued through most of the weekend. Those on hand decribed the activity as being in mid-October form. So, too, were the crowds of action-starved anglers that homed in on the Point once the word spread.

Around other parts of the Island,

FISHERMAN'S CLASSIFIED

To place an ad in *THE FISHERMAN'S* classified section, send in copy for the ad exactly as you wish it to read along with your check or M.O. for the full amount. Rates for non-subscribers are 30-cents per word with a 15 word ($4.50) minimum. Subscribers to *The Fisherman* receive a *Fifty-percent DISCOUNT* if they include the number off their subscription label. Classified rates for subscribers are: 15-cents per word with a 15 word ($2.25) minimum. *Discounts for extended runs:* 12 times, 5%; 35 times, 10%; and 50 times,15%. To run a photo with ad, non-subscribers add $10, subscribers $5.

BOATS & MOTORS



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1977 SEACRAFT New in '78; 233 Mercruiser 500 hrs. Si-Tex Loran C & recorder; VHF, CB, chair, outriggers, SeaTemp gauge. New top; in water at Montauk. 914-246-9046.

1979 36' Harris Sptfsh, "Kim" 3208 Cat diesel. Full Bimini; radar, Loran C, VHF, CB, 3 recording fishfinders, 110 system, K. Pack, Crista-volt, 8 man life raft. Fighting chair, gin pole, full S/S Rail w/teak pulpit. Fish box, lined bait well & much more. Turn-key operation, with or w/o charter business. Mint cond. Thousands of dollars in fishing equip. to be sold separately. After 7PM. 516-239-9112/9113.

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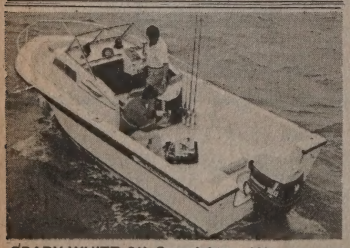
22' MAKO 200 h.p. Evinrude. Low hrs., dual batteries, depth finder, VHF radio. Outriggers. Offshore equipped. $10,000. 212-845-2868.

1978 Evinrude 9.9 h.p. 30 hrs use with tank, hose. Mint. 352-4817 Eves.

22½' Cruisers Inc. 228 h.p. Mercury cruiser. Low; low hrs. Sink, stove, built-in ice box, VHF radio, depth finder. Full canvas. Runs brand new. Immaculate. $11,500. 212-845-2868.

17' 1974 BOSTON WHALER Montauk, 1979 Mariner 60 h.p. elect. 1976 Trailex trailer, power winch, new axle, springs, hubs, bearings, CB, recorder. Extras. $5200. 516-935-0088.

23' Allmand Fiberglas cuddy cabin. Flybridge; dual controls, 2 compasses, 2 props., 2 new batt.; 2 new 30 gal. gas tanks, depth finder, 283 Chev. I/O w/power tilt. All covers; head. Sleeps 4. Excl. $4000 Firm. Located in N.J. 212-833-8178 Days.



GRADY-WHITE 21' Overnighter, 360° recessed walkaround deck. Still the leader! Official Grady-White, Johnson, OMC dealer. New Grady-White's in stock. Also, see the Privateer—a professional work & fishing center console, at low cost. Authorized repairs, mooring, winter storage. EDDIE'S MARINE, Est. 1940, 210 Beach 2nd St., Lawrence. 212-327-3168.

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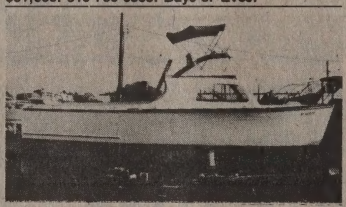
22' CHRIS CRAFT Cutlass Cuddy, 1979; FWC. Rigged for offshore; 80 hrs. Loaded. 516-734-5835.

22' Fiberglass 1972 T-Craft w/140 Merc. Full canvas, VHF, DF. Fast; economical. Great for bay or inshore. Yard-maintained. In water; ready to go. $4100. 516-295-1728 After 6PM.

21' '79 Grady White Overnighter 140 h.p. Evinrude. VHF, CB, outriggers, downriggers. Paper recorder; full canvas; dual batteries. Cuddy cabin. Shoreline trailer w/elec. winch. In water; will demo. Excl. cond. $12,500. 212-961-2845.

26' GROVERBUILT 1979. All teak decking & trim; 6 cyl. Lehman diesel, custom engine mounts & prop. Si-Tex recorder, Nelco Loran, standard VHF. Downriggers, outriggers & too much to list. Will sell with or w/o electronics. Mint cond.; must see. $31,000. 516-766-3838. Days or Eves.



1961 30' PACEMAKER Sportfisherman 1980, 225 h.p. OMC; new Hynautec steering, VHF, CB, depth sounder. Loaded w/extras. In water & will demo. Excl. cond. Must sell. $5000. 212-456-9171.

1979 AQUASPORT 24' 6" Family Fisherman; 200 h.p. Black Max. Full equipped. CB pkg.; VHF, CB, Aquaprobe 1000 watt recorder, Si-Tex, Loran C. Lots of extras. 914-268-4651. Asking $12,500.

Mark Twain 24' 1980 w/228 h.p. Mercruiser w/FWC. Loaded w/extras, w/1981 Shoreline Galv. trailer. Outriggers, D/R Mercathie, CB, AM/FM 8 track. Elec. anchor wireless. Fully guar. STRONGS MARINE CENTER, 298-4020.

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1977 PENN YAN 23' Fiberglass F/B, 255 h.p IB, dual stations, depth finder, VHF, trim tabs, dinette. Sleeps 4; head, sink & many extras. Immaculate; in water. $12,000. 9AM-3PM. 516-691-6560.

1978 24' SEA RAY Weekender 240 OMC I/O, galley, head, sleeps 4, VHF, CB, recorder, platform, tabs. Perko outriggers & holders. Many other extras. Boat in immac. cond. Can be seen at my dock. 516-678-2113.

EGG HARBOR, 1958 31'. Excellent cond., VHF radio, sonar, depth sounder, RJ Hailer. Many extras. Must be seen. Call 516-725-0817 for appointment. $4500.

23' 1980 SEA OX, 200 h.p. Evinrude. Large custom console w/built-in radio & tackle boxes. Hydraulic steering w/24" stainless destroyer wheel. Outriggers, 85 gal. fuel tank, Danforth compass; CB & VHF antennas; 2 batt. w/switch. Much more. $11,000. 516-757-9179 After 3PM.

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23' THUNDERBIRD Cuddy Cabin, 160 Mercruiser I/O Rebuilt engine & outdrive. New gas tanks + steering, + controls, chart recorder, compass, CB, outriggers, gin pole, head. In water; will demo. $4650. 516-242-3821.

1959 16' Thompson Wood Lapstrake w/1968 Johnson elec. 55 h.p. motor & 1978 Little Dude galv. trailer w/buddy helpers. Plus many extras. Battery, rod holders, anchor line, two 6-gal. gas tanks: Marine top; dacron mooring cover, CB, compass, running lights, etc. Boat in water; slip paid till end of Oct. $1400 Firm. Call after 6PM. 516-586-7323.

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EGG HARBOR 36', '62 Sedan fisherman. New paint. Super clean. New canvas, twin 350 Crusader FWC. New fall '80; VHF, CB, recorder. Outriggers, fish chairs. Commercially documented 6-man charters. $18,000. Wkdays. 516-798-7531.

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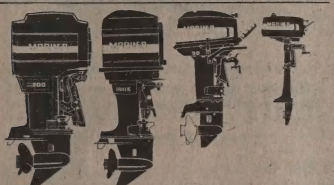
1975 WELLCRAFT V-20, 85 h.p. Evinrude, 9½ h.p. kicker. Dual batteries, auto. bilge pump, full canvas. Paper recorder, Ray Jeff CB. Many extras; excl. cond. $5300. Galvanized trailer w/brakes also avail. 516-421-9081/3717.

26' CHRIS CRAFT Cutlass. Exc. cond. Twin 307 c.i., Ross recorder, CB, VHF, chair, O/R & much more. $7500. 201-489-0732 or 201-265-9156.



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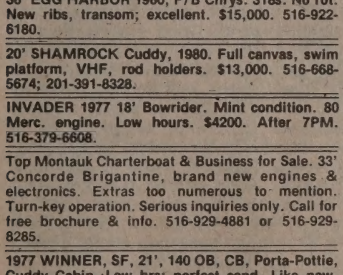
Top Montauk Charterboat & Business for Sale. 33' Concorde Brigantine, brand new engines & electronics. Extras too numerous to mention. Turn-key operation. Serious inquiries only. Call for free brochure & info. 516-929-4881 or 516-929-8285.

1977 WINNER, SF, 21', 140 OB, CB, Porta-Pottie, Cuddy Cabin. Low hrs; perfect cond. Like new. East Hampton Marina, 516-324-4042, or call collect evenings 203-762-7033.



1972 LUHRS 28' 225 FWC 1979. Galley, VHF, DF, riggers & more. Mint. $11,500. Eves: 516-543-7725 Days: 516-883-5100.

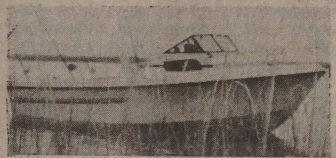
30' SEA RAY Weekender 1978. Twin 255 h.p. engines. Low hrs. Boat loaded w/options. Immaculate cond. Days: 212-823-9100 or Nites 914-636-0584.

AQUASPORT 1980 24' 6" Family Fisherman w/225 Merc. Loaded w/extras. 1-year guar. 50 hrs. 298-4020.

1978 BAYLINER 27' 226 h.p. I/O. Victoria bridge. Trim tal . Low hrs. Excellent. $17,500. 582-9479.

AQUASPORT SALE! All models reduced. Strong's Marine Center, Main Rd. Mattituck. 516-298-4020.

1974 CHRIS CRAFT Lancer 23', 350 Chevy, Volvo outdrive. New 85 gal. gas tank, VHF, CB, digital depth recorder. Pompanette Fighting chair; outriggers. Dual batteries w/switch; marine head; 3 compasses. Fast & Economical. Great for Bay or offshore. In water; excl. cond. $7900. 516-798-1242 or 516-599-6528.



SEA OX 20' & 23' Walkaround Cuddy. Avail. inboard or outboard; 17'-23' models avail. Center console or comm'l. Largest Sea Ox & Stamas Phoenix dealer on L.I. Phoenix avail. in gas or diesel inboard, twin or single, or outboard. STEIN'S BOAT & MOTOR SALES, 23 River Rd., Sayville, N.Y. 516-567-3313.

STARCRAFT

12' thru 22' Aluminum skiffs, consoles & cuddies in stock for demonstration & delivery. Authorized Evinrude financing. DAVE BOFILL MARINE, 1810 North Sea Rd., Southampton, NY. 516-283-6736.

BOATING EQPT.

DAVITS—DAVITS—DAVITS
Most complete line of Davits & Marine Elevators. Expert installation. North Peter's Co., Inc. 516-234-8282. Tom.

COMPASSES—COMPASSES—COMPASSES
Remember, if it has anything to do with compasses at all, give me a call! Huge inventory of Ritchie Compasses. Expert installation & adjustment. Authorized repair service. I also carry a complete line of binoculars, sextants, clocks, barometers. JENS JACOBS NAUTICAL SERVICE, 516-757-7169.

CUSTOM MARINE WOODWORK: Specializing in one of a kind pieces. No job too small. Dress up your boat. Teak step pads made to order. After 6PM. 516-623-1639.

BOAT TRAILERS FOR RENT: Single & Tandem axle. Daily, weekly, monthly rates. Temporary & Permanent hitches for sale or rent. BARN TRAILER SERVICE, 57-06 Broadway, Woodside, NY 212-426-7039.

100% Stainless Steel marine products: rails, towers, ladders, brackets, hinges, cleats, rod holders, shafts, struts, chocks, fasteners, pulpits. Custom & Standard products available. SEABRITE STAINLESS SALES CO., 63 Morris Ave. & Hwy. #35, Neptune City, NJ 07753; 201-988-8818. Send for complete catalog; cost $2.25.

FIBERGLASS Boat Repairs. Wood, glass; restorations. 12 years experience in Long Island. Hauling available. 516-654-8196 or 516-281-3610.

Wholesale Marine Fasteners, Stainless, silicon bronze. Full line. Shop parts. O-Rings. Free catalog. ARONMARINE, 61 Mastic Beach, New York 11951; 516-281-3366.

TRAILER HITCHES. The most complete Draw-Tite line of Class I & II hitches in stock in Long Island. Sales, Installations & Service. TOM CASH WELDING, Lake Ronkonkoma. 516-JU 8-6143.

Automatic Loran C. Texas Instruments TI-9000A & antenna in mint condition. Used only this season. Will demo. Cost $1295. Price $795. 516-799-0420.

1976 Highlander Trailer. Tandem wheel, 2700 lbs. Buddy bearings. Excellent. Tilt bed, lights. $525. 516-328-0450.

1979 Evinrude 175 h.p. 20" shaft. Excl. cond., currently in use. Low hours. Will demonstrate on our boat. 212-238-8219.

FISHING TACKLE

FLUKE KILLER RIGS—Beware of imitations. The ultimate in deadly, double hook design. Long the secret of the Pros. You will hook more & lose fewer fluke since fish can't avoid fully adjustable tail hook. All hand tied; finest materials. Pays for itself in fluke dinners. 3 rigs - $3.50. P. Miller, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, NY 11566.

FOUR SEASONS RIGS. Custom fishing rig manufacturer. "Night-Glow" & Hot Pink whiting & ling; also flounder corn special, Tandem red dot fluke. Hi-Lo pearl weakfish. Bluefish mullet. Over 60 different saltwater rigs. Dealers inquiries welcome. P.O. Box 1552, Pt. Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742; 201-929-1881.

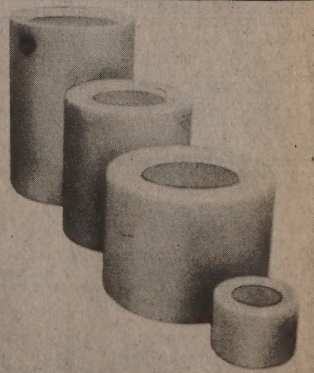
LOOKING FOR REAL "REEL" PRICES? Send $.50 to Marlin Sports, Inc., P.O. Box 555, Tenafly, NJ 07670. We Carry Penn, Daiwa, Fin-Nor, Zebco, Shimano, Ryobi & more.

Catch more fish...with super designed saltwater rigs. Send for free catalog now!! HUDSON TACKLE, Dept. I, P.O. Box 437, Kearny, N.J. 07032.

FLOUNDER KILLER RIGS. Flounders are committing suicide on this famous 3-hook rig especially designed for the "meat fisherman." Special design & construction keeps tangles at a minimum. All hand-made finest quality material. 3 completely tied rigs for $3.50. Send check or M.O. to: P. Miller, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, NY 11566.

Whale of a Sale! Send for free catalog. ADKINS FISHING TACKLE, P.O. Box 224, Mt. Sinai, New York 11766.

Free Catalog. Fine saltwater fishing tackle at low, low prices. Write to: WEST FALMOUTH TACKLE, Box 690E, West Falmouth, MA 02574.



LIVE BAIT WELLS, pumps & accessories. For free brochure send $.25 P/H. The Caddy Co., 57 Bayonne Ave., Dept. L, Central Islip, NY 11722, 516-234-0144.

Continued On Next Page

Downriggers, 2, Riviera Model 1000 Auto/Electric 6' arms w/wire. Like new. $425. each. 516-731-1064.

B-P FISHING Tackle Manufacturer—Most often copied! Never equaled! The largest selection of rigs, jigs, tubes & leaders; over 200 items. No comparison by anyone. Dealers call: 201-688-6059 or write: 22 Portland Rd., Union, NJ 07083.

MISCELLANEOUS

EMBLEMS: Direct from manufacturer. Swiss embroidered; custom made to your design. Send sample or sketch & quantity needed for free quotation. DAVID HAEMMERLE & Sons, Inc., Box 711, West New York, NJ 07093.

TUNA TOWERS, HALF TOWERS & RADAR ARCHES—Custom made to your specifications. Anodized aluminum construction; welded joints. Delivered & fitted to your boat. Controls optional. Free estimates. Also self-inflating life rafts. Call Bob Christian, Eves. 516-979-9193.

1980 Ford F250 SuperCab, 4X4, w/cap, 2 sets of tires. Can be seen in Freeport or Bronx by appointment. Call 914-928-9613 for details.

30-06 Browning Rifle 3x9 scope; 12 ga. Ithaca Double Shotgun. 22 Marlin Rifle & Scope. Allan 45/55 Compound Bow. 18 gal. Fiberglas gas tank. Mint cond. 747-0289.

4x4 TRUCK CLEARANCE—Only at N.Y. State's largest Subaru dealer. Free accessory pkg. w/every purchase. Call for details. MT. KISCO SUBARU. Call collect 914-241-1150. Only 50 mi. from Huntington.

MATE NEEDED WEEKDAYS: Seaford based open boat. Enthusiasm more important than experience. To start immediately. 516-731-2108.

LOBSTER TRAPS & LOBSTER FISHING EQUIPMENT. Lath, frames, funnels, warp buoys, Osco haulers. Power winch, elec. hauler; spec. $275. 516-427-4063.

FULLY LICENSED CAPTAIN. Available for charters, water deliveries, transfers, individual trips; boat handling instruction. 516-795-4498.

Marine Transport—T.K.'s BOAT HAULING. You call; we haul! 24 hr. Emergency Service. Local & Long Distance; launching & hauling at any desired location. Up to 35'. Fully insured carrier. Call: T.K., 516-623-2967.

SUMMER DOCKAGE—Now taking reservations: $16 per ft. 23' limit. Five minutes from Shinnecock Inlet. Also have a small selection of select brokerage boats for sale. SUNSHINE MARINE, 23 Rampasture Rd., Hampton Bays, N.Y. 11946. 516-728-1339.

PETER DELESKI JR., Builder—additions, garages, tile, ceramics & quarry. After 6PM. 516-725-3739.

WANTED: Old Nautical items, any condition. Clocks, barometers, lamps, locks, lanterns & related items. Eves. 516-354-2668.

the tempo continues to slowly improve.

Here's how things looked as of Monday morning's phoning.

To the west, Bernie Haag of the Long Beach Sports Marina told of a pair of bass weighing in at 15 and 17 lbs. taken by an anonymous caster working RedFins from an Atlantic Beach rock pile during the week. Also, some big weakfish on bunker chunks in the Rockaway surf. "Plenty of mullet in the bays" noted Bernie. One reliable source said a few school bass have begun to show at Point Lookout.

At West End, Jones Beach, a few blues on tin and bunker chunks. One caster, using tin out front at West End early in the week, scored with three teensize stripers.

Gilgo continues to produce an occasional bass or blue on bunker chunks and live eels while Cedar and the "Thumb" remain quiet. A few very small blues (2 lb. class) in suds at Robert Moses parking field #3.

Speaking from his Mastic Bait and Tackle Shop, Dick new of 2 bass including an 18 lber. taken on a plug at Cut 2 by one regular during the week. At the Inlet, some activity with very small blues on tin.

Getting back to Montauk, Johnny Kronuch of Johnny's Tackle Shop gave a rundown of the past several days. Joey Bragan started things off on Wednesday night with bass of 14 and 26 lbs., 12 weakfish and 3 blues. On Thursday night, a few casters, including members of the Striper Surf Club, did a number on the fish again. Action was constant from 3:30 a.m. through daybreak, according to one caster lucky enough to be on the scene.

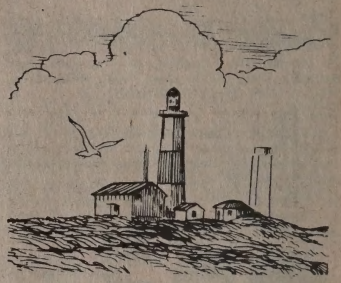
Friday night saw the same hectic action with 5 lb. class weaks and 5-8 lb. blues predominating. Blues were also taken in Turtle Cove, while Ditch Plains and Hither Hills had fish as well. Earlier in the week, a few teen to 30 lb. stripers were taken on the south side. Among bass taken up front on the weekend were Ted Chesley's 25 lber. and Striper Surf Club member Joe Sarantonnio's 17.12 lber.

Moving over to the north shore, George from City Island Bait and Tackle told me that "dump" area in Turtle Cove has been producing blues in the 5-10 lb. class on bunker chunks. Most of the action is confined to the early morning hours. George noted there are a few bass being taken from the east side of the City Island shore, but said access is difficult.

Some good action with blues in the 10 lb. class on the west bar of Crab Meadow, according to Thom Bowman of Bowman's Sporting Goods in Northport. Fish were being taken late afternoons and evenings on white or silver poppers during the last part of incoming water. No word of any bass or weaks along beaches in the area.

From his Rocky Point Fishing Stop, Stan complained about warm and browned up water. The only action has been some small blues which have been hit or miss along local beaches. Most are in the 2-3 lb. range and are taken on tin when found.

Ed from Warren's Tackle Shop in Aquebogue, who keeps tabs on the North Fork said things continued pretty quiet this past week with just a few blues in the 3-5 lb. range being taken down along Kenney's Beach in the early morning or evening hours.



NATIONAL SCENE:

(Continued from page 10.)

1980 season, the first thousand pounder was boated on September 9, while the last was taken on November 28. That last fish was 1,079 lbs. and was taken on 30 lb. line—breaking a record of Steve Sloan's that I had expected would last a long time.

The heaviest fish of 1980 was the 1,313 lber. boated by Ray Reeds of Louisiana. That was just short of the record for Australia of 1,347 lbs., caught by Morton May on 80 lb. line in 1979. Despite the great numbers of huge black marlin taken off the Great Barrier Reef in recent years, no one has come close to the all-tackle men's and women's records of 1560 and 1525 pounds respectively—both established off Cabo Blanco, Peru in the mid-1950, when that area was the big game capitol of the world.

This fishery started in the mid-Sixties out of Cairns, North Queensland—a relatively remote area of Australia. On November 13 last year, the one hundred fiftieth, thousand pounder was weighed in at that port. However, fishing from there involves a long ride and minimal fishing time, so an outpost base was set up several years ago at Lizard Island—160 miles north of Cairns and about 10 miles in from the Barrier Reef. According to the records, almost all the huge blacks are caught in October and November. However, it's very difficult to get reservations at that time—and even then you can be disappointed. Steve Sloan and Dr. Gary Sherman, of Brooklyn, made a trip last fall and had very few marlin strikes during their week. By the way, I wasn't kidding about dipping into the family fortune for this fishing. By the time you figure on transportation, charter boat, houseboat, food, etc., $10,000 may not do for a week's fishing!

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet...–0 50" is listed under "ON SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK		Breakwater Harbor		NEW YORK		NEW LONDON		WILLETS POINT		BRIDGE-PORT		NEWPORT		DATE
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	
THUR.	10:55	11:25	11:40	–	11:35	–	12:00	12:25	12:45	1:05	1:55	2:15	10:55	11:15	9/17
FRI.	11:50	–	12:00	12:30	12:00	12:30	12:55	1:20	2:35	2:55	2:45	3:05	11:45	–	9/18
SAT.	12:20	12:45	12:50	1:25	1:00	1:30	1:55	2:15	3:30	3:55	3:40	4:05	12:15	12:45	9/19
SUN.	1:20	1:45	1:55	2:30	2:00	2:30	2:55	3:20	4:35	5:00	4:45	5:05	1:15	1:45	9/20
MON.	2:20	2:50	3:05	3:40	3:00	3:30	4:05	4:30	6:10	6:40	5:50	6:15	2:20	2:50	9/21
TUE.	3:30	3:55	4:20	4:50	4:10	4:40	5:15	5:40	7:45	8:10	7:00	7:25	3:25	3:55	9/22
WED.	4:40	5:05	5:25	5:55	5:15	5:40	6:20	6:40	8:50	9:15	8:05	8:30	4:30	4:55	9/23
THUR.	5:40	6:05	6:30	6:55	6:20	6:40	7:20	7:40	9:45	10:15	9:05	9:30	5:25	5:50	9/24

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	–0 01
Red Bank, Navesink, R.I.	+0 48
Long Branch	–0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	–0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	–0 12
Seaside Park	–0 33
Mantoloking zbridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	–0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	–0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	–0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 46
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	–0 02
Rehoboth Beach	–0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	–0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	–0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Pontunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	–0 38
Democrat Point	–0 38
Coast Guard Station	–0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	–0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	–0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	–0 08
Herod Point	–0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	–0 20
Truman Beach	–0 42
Falkner Island	–0 13
Sachem Head	–0 10
Branford Harbor	–0 07
New Haven Harbor	–0 08
Milford Harbor	–0 07
Stratford	+0 27
Shelton	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor	–0 03
Saugatuck River	–0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	–0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	–0 14
Montauk Inlet	–0 25
Montauk Point	–1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington	–0 33
Noank, Mystic River	–0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	–0 01
Norwich	+0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+1 10
Lyme	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	–0 10
Execution Light	–0 06
Manhasset Bay	–0 01
Hempstead Harbor	–0 11
City Island	–0 03
Rye Beach	–0 28
Port Chester	–0 09
Mamaroneck	–0 08
New Rocheele	–0 24
Davids Island	–0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	–0 10
Miami Beach	+1 17
East Point	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	–0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburg	+3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	–0 10
Tiverton	+0 21
Beavertail Point	–0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+0 10
Bristol	+0 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayett Point	+0 12
Pawtuckel	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	–0 08
Point Judith Harbor	–0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Old Harbor	–0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

9/18	6:43	7:05
9/19	6:44	7:03
9/20	6:45	7:02
9/21	6:45	7:01
9/22	6:46	6:59
9/23	6:47	6:57
9/24	6:48	6:56

Moonrise/Moonset

9/18	10:13PM	11:40AM
9/19	10:59PM	12:51PM
9/20	11:50PM	1:58PM
9/21	—	2:59PM
9/22	12:47AM	3:53PM
9/23	1:48AM	4:40PM
9/24	2:52AM	5:20PM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
9/28	9/6	9/14	9/20

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for this week as printed below have been taken from the original ***KNIGHT SOLUNAR TABLES.*** Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.
The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type face.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	8:25	2:15	9:00	2:45
Fri.	9:25	3:15	10:00	3:45
Sat.	10:25	4:15	11:00	4:45
Sun.	11:30	5:20	11:55	5:45
Mon.	—	6:10	12:20	6:40
Tues.	12:55	7:05	1:15	7:35
Wed.	1:50	8:00	2:10	8:25
Thurs.	2:40	8:50	3:00	9:15

Start lifting more fish and less rod. Fenwick Fenglass™ Pacificstiks.™

Fenwick recently introduced a new 12-rod series called Pacificstiks, offering universal actions in a unique new design. The response to these rods has been tremendous. From the Atlantic to the Pacific to the Gulf Coast, fishermen everywhere are enjoying Pacificstiks. Although originally designed for the West Coast fisherman, the performance and actions of these rods have quickly made them a favorite of all saltwater fishermen.

UP TO 60% LIGHTER

The use of Fenglass — a special Fenwick material — has enabled us to reduce the weight of our saltwater rods. Pacificstiks are as much as 60% lighter than rods from other manufacturers. Your energy goes into lifting fish, not lifting the rod.

UNEQUALLED STRENGTH AND POWER

Fenglass itself is much stronger than traditional fiberglass material. Even with their exceptionally light weight, Fenwick's Pacificstiks are the most powerful rods made today. For sheer brute strength, no other rods can outperform them.

Pictured at left: Five of the twelve Fenglass Pacificstiks . . . both casting and spinning models with a power and an action for every saltwater fisherman's needs.

SPECIAL SALTWATER ACTIONS

At Fenwick, we're aware of the special versatility needed by top saltwater fishermen. That's why we've included 8 different casting and 4 different spinning models in the series. Each Pacificstik features rich brown hand-wraps, Fenwick Hand Hugger™ grips, and carballoy tip top.

Whether you're fly-lining pinhead anchovies to bass or halibut, or hooking up super-sized tuna, yellowtail, tarpon or bluefish, Fenwick has the right rod for you.

See them now at your tackle dealer.

fenwick
Part of Woodstream's World

A SIGN OF A GO
FISHERMA